

Another cut expected as base rate falls

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The big four clearing banks cut the cost of borrowing for industry and consumers yesterday with a surprise reduction in their base lending rate. The reduction, it is believed, will save industry £125 million a year.

The pound remained strong on world currency markets and there was increasing optimism last night that a further fall in borrowing costs was imminent, perhaps next week.

National Westminster led the big banks in cutting their base rates by half a percentage point to 11 per cent in a swift reaction to a fall in general money market interest rates on Monday. Most experts had not expected a cut at least until tomorrow.

The move, part of a round of interest rate reductions in the world's leading economies, follows the weekend realignment of currencies in the European Monetary System.

Sir James Clesminson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, commented on the speed of the Government's reaction to the EMS changes, but he added: "Our borrowing costs are still higher than those of our major competitors and we look forward to single-figure interest rates later this year."

The rapid cut in base rates was taken in the City as a sign that the authorities were determined not to allow the pound to remain too strong. Analysts saw it as a reassuring indication of the Government's policy on exchange rates.

Optimism over lower interest rates did not prevent further weakness in the stock market where share prices fell back sharply in late trading, undoing small gains in the morning.

The drop in base rates will not, however, mean an immediate reduction in mortgage rates, according to building societies. Mr John Bayliss, general manager of Abbey National, the second largest society, explained: "We discounted this move when we cut our mortgage rates by 0.75 per cent last month. We would need at least another one percentage point off base rates before we were able to lower home-loan rates further."

One factor helping sterling to remain firm on world markets was the relatively steady oil price. The benchmark North Sea Brent crude oil weakened only a few cents to around \$14 a barrel for delivery in May.

Meanwhile, the dollar collapsed against most currencies, falling more than five pence to close at DM2.3393. The pound rose 2.5 cents against the dollar in London to close at \$1.4780.

The dollar's weakness was attributed to an expected imminent cut in the discount rate of its central bank, the Federal Reserve Board, of around half of one percentage point.

Dealers in London money markets also believed the dollar's weakness was due partly to reports from Washington that finance ministers of the five largest industrial nations are expected to agree to co-ordinate worldwide reductions in interest rates and to weaken the strengthening dollar.

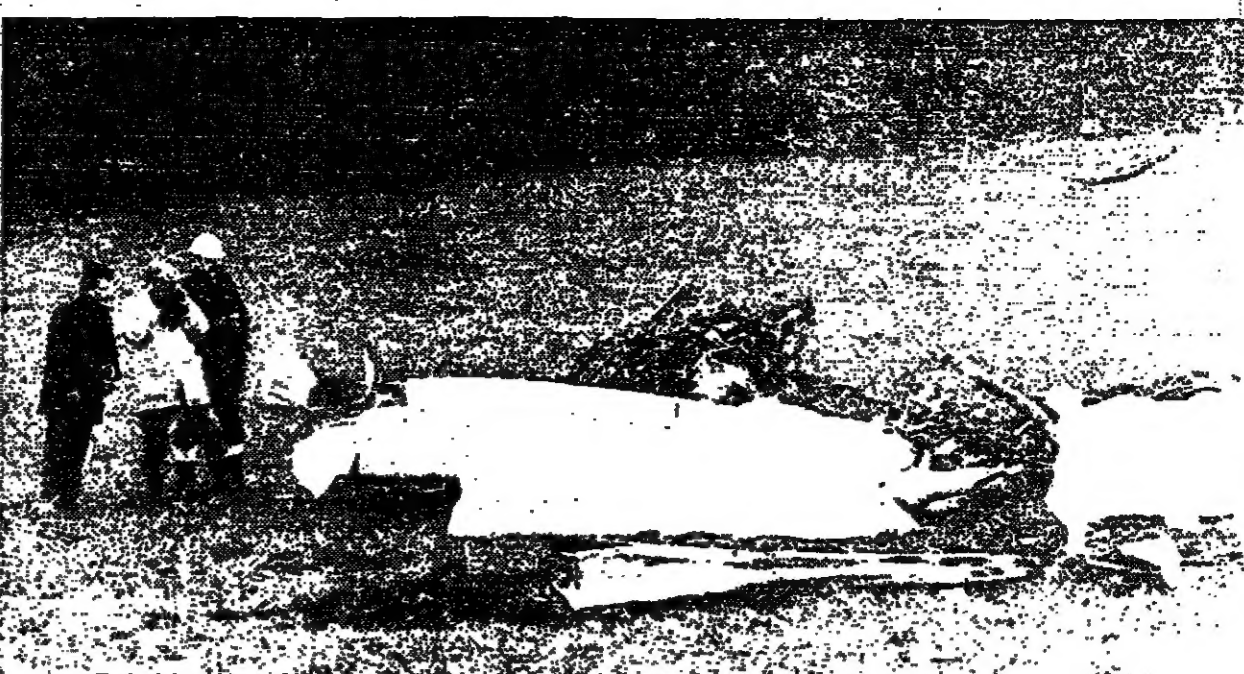
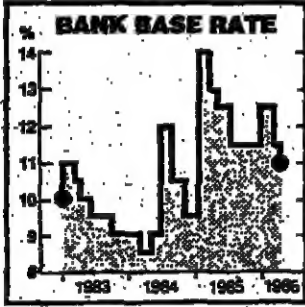
Some dealers also claimed that the Bank of France, the central bank, was selling large amounts of dollars and buying marks to bolster the mark's position in the EMS, where it had fallen to the bottom of its permitted trading range.

Reductions are also anticipated in Japanese interest rates.

After the cut in base rates, the pound weakened against most European currencies, however, leaving its trade-weighted index, measured against a basket of currencies, unchanged from Monday at 76.7. Sterling dropped five pence against the mark to DM3.4548.

On the stock market, prices rose initially after Monday's 20-point fall on the FT 30 share index, but profit taking later in the day forced prices further down. The index closed 15.1 points lower at 1,385.8.

Group of Five talks, page 21



The wreckage of the helicopter which crashed killing six people near Banbury yesterday (Photograph: John Manning)

Six die as helicopter crashes into hill

By Craig Seton

The pilot of a crashing helicopter which skinned the roof of an Oxfordshire village had struggled at the controls to avoid hitting a hillside before it plunged into a field and burst into flames, killing all six people on board, including four children.

The two-engine French-built Squirrel crashed into a hillside only 200 yards from houses at Swadcliffe, six miles from Banbury, after narrowly missing the 70ft high tower of the parish church. Villagers said they had heard the helicopter's engines splutter and cut out seconds before the crash.

Among the dead were the wife and two sons of the helicopter's owner, Mr Philip Cossens, a multi-millionaire, who was in Germany on business. The helicopter was owned by Mr Cossens's company, International Helicopters and Landings of Virginia Water, Surrey, and was operated on his behalf by McAlpine Helicopters of Hayes, Middlesex.

A spokesman for McAlpine said: "About 10 miles south-west of Banbury, the pilot put out a distress call saying he had engine failure. We lost contact shortly after that."

The pilot was named last night as Mr Jeremy Howe, aged 38, a father of three from Hampshire, who had worked for the company for three years and was formerly with the Army Air Corps. He was described as an experienced pilot with more than 4,000 hours flying time.

He had taken off from Hayes and at Pangbourne, Berkshire, had picked up Mrs Val Cossens, her sons Nigel, aged 16, and Stephen, aged 13, from Pangbourne, and two other children who were friends of the family, before flying north towards Alton Towers. Last night, the other children had not been named.

Mr Cossens learned of the tragedy by telephone yesterday and immediately left to fly home.

Department of Transport and Civil Aviation Authority crash investigators were yesterday examining the wreckage of the helicopter to find out the cause of its apparent engine failure and to discover if only one or both engines had failed.

The accident happened at 10.08 am yesterday morning. Continued on page 20, col 8

Washington calls off underground nuclear blast test

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States yesterday unexpectedly cancelled an underground nuclear test that would almost certainly have led to the end of the Soviet Union's eight-month unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing.

The Department of Energy refused to give an immediate explanation, but Administration sources attributed the delay to the weather.

News of the cancellation came as Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, confirmed to President Reagan that he was ready for a summit in the US later this year, although the two sides continue to haggle about the date.

The superpowers moved closer to a summit after a 75-minute meeting - an hour longer than planned - between President Reagan and Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the outgoing Soviet Ambassador to Washington, which included discussions on American underground nuclear tests and other questions affecting superpower relations.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, announced later that Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, would meet him in Washington next month to prepare for the summit, which the US would prefer to be in June or July.

Mr Shultz emphasized that Mr Dobrynin, who has been Ambassador for 24 years, did not present any preconditions for the summit. Both sides wanted to achieve significant results and therefore wanted the meeting to be carefully prepared.

Yesterday's planned test in Nevada, codenamed "Mighty Oak", was to have tested the impact of a nuclear blast on nuclear warheads. Scores of Congressmen of both parties had urged the Administration to postpone it in the hope of reaching an overall nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union.

Challenge to Powell on Ulster

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Ulster crisis plunged the Commons into bitter turmoil yesterday as Unionist MPs were accused of deliberately attempting to subvert democracy and an enraged Mr Enoch Powell was challenged by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to stand up and condemn anti-police violence.

Earlier, the Prime Minister had told the House the Anglo-Irish accord could only bring peace and stability to Ulster with the goodwill and active co-operation of "decent men and women on both sides of the community."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher then cited the words of Burke, saying: "All that is required for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing. Now is the time for good men to make their views known."

That challenge was later put directly to Mr Powell, the Official Unionist MP for South Down, who said the Government had been warned about the consequences of the agreement with Dublin.

Mr King said: "I hoped that he would have felt able to include in his remarks his condemnation of the violence being shown to the RUC."

With Mr Powell shouting across the chamber - and the word "humbug" clearly heard in the hubbub - Mr King added: "I think it is very regrettable indeed and I hope that he would feel able even now to say it, even in another place."

But Mr John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour MP for Foyle, told the House: "Those policemen in Northern Ireland, who are so clearly in difficult circumstances, impartially upheld the rule of law in Northern Ireland last week."

They deserve not just the Continued on page 2, col 7

Tomorrow Beckett at 80



Samuel Beckett, the playwright who made the absurd seem logical, is profiled by Anthony Burgess

High society in oils
James Fenton on John Singer Sargent, portrait painter

Portfolio

The £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio daily competition, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous day, was shared yesterday by five readers, each receiving £800. They are: Mr J. Sykes, of London SW15; Mr A.H. Cordell, of Crawley, Sussex; Mrs J. Farrell, of Glasgow; Mrs J. Newman, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; and Mrs G. Eccles, of Ravenshoe, Devon. Portfolio list, page 28; how to play, information service, page 20; Portfolio relaunch, page 3.

Bomb kills 10

A car bomb which exploded near a Phalangist Party office in Jounieh killed at least 10 people and marked resumption of the battle for Lebanon's Maronite heartland. Page 7

Labour battle

The Labour Party faces an uphill task in the two by-elections due after Fulham, which goes to the polls tomorrow. A special Times/MORI survey in all three constituencies looks behind the poll figures. Page 16

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'Violent' prisoner free after raid on hospital

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

An "extremely dangerous" high-security prisoner awaiting trial for attempted murder was on the run last night after being freed by a gang in a raid on a west London hospital.

Alan Robert Knowlden, aged 35, was freed by men armed with iron bars, ammunition and possibly a shotgun shortly after dawn yesterday, as he lay in a ward at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he was to receive surgery.

Three prison officers were overpowered before Mr Knowlden and his rescuers disappeared.

As a watch on air and sea ports began, Scotland Yard officers were expected to interview the missing man's wife, who visited him with two others on Monday after he was brought from Wormwood Scrubs prison for treatment on a fractured nose.

The visit, in the presence of prison officers, was described by other patients in the ward as long and loud. Officers were also investigating the prisoner's move to hospital and the arrangements for his guard. When a senior detective was asked yesterday if Mr Knowlden had been given the night before he vanished, the policeman refused to comment.

Mr Knowlden was committed for trial by Clerkenwell Magistrates Court last November, charged with the attempted murder of Steven Cannon. The charge arose out of an incident at the Prince Alfred public house, Islington, north London, in August 1984.

On March 30 last, Mr Knowlden was involved in an incident with a prison officer in which he received two black eyes and a fractured nose. Mr Knowlden is believed to have claimed he was beaten up.

He has received treatment from prison medical staff and a consultant. On Monday it was decided to move him to St Mary's for an operation on his nose. The hospital was chosen because of the treatment it could offer.

Mr Knowlden was put in a Continued on page 2, col 5



Mr Alan Knowlden, who was on the run last night

Labour councillors face poll ban

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The district auditor yesterday took steps which could end in the disqualification of 300 Labour councillors, including several parliamentary candidates and some of the party's best-known local names.

Mr Brian Skinner, auditor for the metropolitan districts, has found discrepancies in the 1985-86 accounts of five London boroughs, Greenwich, Camden, Southwark, Hackney and Islington. All delayed setting rates last spring, and most waited for up to two months despite being warned of mounting losses.

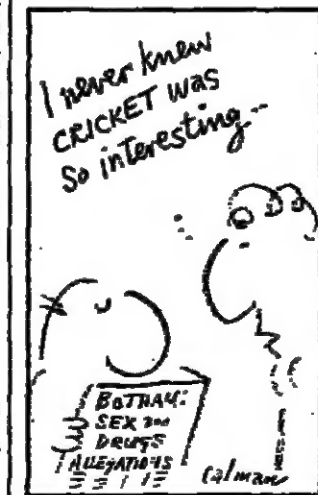
The auditor's reports were delivered privately to town clerks, but must by law be made public. The move comes a month before council elections in the London boroughs and metropolitan districts.

Mr Skinner has queried losses that occurred when council cashflow was disrupted. In Camden losses of interest grew to £20,000 a day. The auditor's action owes much to the High Court ruling last month to disqualify Labour members of Lambeth council.

Mr Skinner, who is employed by the quasi-independent Audit Commission, has come under pressure from Alliance MPs to disclose other financial losses.

The district auditor's findings could result in court action against Mrs Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington, and Mr John Austin Walker, Labour leader of Greenwich and parliamentary candidate for Gravesend.

The Audit Commission may, embarrassingly, have to take action against one of its own members. Mr Roy Shaw, a Camden councillor, he may be held responsible for delaying the decision to set a rate.



John Botham, the England cricketer, travelled to Antigua yesterday to see his wife Kathy, who flew out there from London. Tony Brown, the England manager, arranged the reunion a day ahead of the main party's arrival from Trinidad to give the couple time to discuss newspaper allegations about sex and drugs concerning Botham.

John Woodcock, pages 16, 40

Lonrho in attack on Whitehall

Lonrho, the international trading company, yesterday attacked the Government and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, over an alleged "false offer document" in the takeover battle for House of Fraser won by the Al-Fayed brothers of Egypt more than a year ago.

Lonrho's chairman, Mr Edward du Cann, said the Government blocked the Lonrho bid but allowed "unknown foreigners" in after only a cursory glance at their credentials.

He added: "Perhaps even more criticism should be levelled at those who misled the authorities by the warranties they gave as to the financial standing of the purchasers."

A spokesman for Kleinwort Benson, which issued the offer document on behalf of the Al-Fayed brothers, declined to comment. Details, page 21

Queen's birthday present goes pop

By Alan Hamilton

The Queen is to be greeted on her 60th birthday in April by children, flowers, and more than a touch of show business schtick.

An unofficial committee formed to mark the anniversary on April 21 yesterday unveiled a pop record, performed by the Band of the Grenadier Guards and children from St John's College School, Cambridge, of a song which 6,000 children will sing in the courtyard of Buckingham Palace as the Queen listens from the balcony.

With lyrics like "We saw your car, Hurrah! Hurrah! Arriving at the gate. We saw you wave your hand as you went through," and "Happy birthday Ma'am God bless you, With great work still to do, Think of April's voice and take heart, From hearts still new," and a chirpy, brassy accompaniment, the organisers hope the record will reach the top of the charts.

At the Queen's request,

profits are to be donated to the National Children's Charities Fund.

The song was written by Mr Christopher Logue, the journalist, and Mr Tony Macaulay, a songwriter whose previous clients have included Elvis Presley, Tom Jones and Johnny Mathis.

The Mail will be closed for 2 1/2 hours on the afternoon of April 21 while the children walk to the Palace bearing 120,000 daffodils. After they have serenaded the Queen, she will meet some of them in the forecourt.

Mr Neville Labovitch, chairman of the organizing committee, said: "This celebration brings together three elements the Queen loves: children, flowers and music."

Earlier in the day, the Queen will attend a family thanksgiving service at St George's Chapel, Windsor, and in the evening she will attend a gala concert given in her honour at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Frigate in secret night launch

From Peter Davenport, Newcastle upon Tyne

The Royal Navy's latest warship was launched in secret yesterday to foil a shipyard strike in an operation finalized over after-dinner brandy with senior Admiralty officers.

At 3.45am, 12 hours earlier than scheduled, the type 22 frigate, HMS Coventry, built to replace her destroyer namesake sunk in the Falklands with a loss of 19 lives, was slipped into the River Tyne by a 100-strong management team from the Swan Hunter yard.

The undercover plan had been drawn up by senior management who feared that a demonstration by some of the 2,000 workers who walked out on unofficial strike in a pay and conditions dispute would disrupt and delay the planned ceremony.

They were determined to deliver the £100 million frigate on time to further their claim for a £240 million Ministry of Defence order for two new vessels against their rivals Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

The secret launch ceremony, conducted in driving rain and gale force winds under special floodlights in a deserted shipyard, took place shortly before a Cabinet committee met to discuss the order for the two auxiliary oil replenishment vessels.

In the event, the economic committee postponed a decision for at least another week because of deep divisions among ministers.

After the launch Mr Alex Marsh, a managing director, said: "We had been worried that a small section of our workforce were not prepared to launch the ship and that there could be a demonstration."

"It is not a question of it being one in the eye for the unions. We are not in the business of scoring points at the expense of the unions. We are in the business of building ships and delivering them on time."

Mr Marsh said that Swan Hunter was not going to be bullied by strikers.

"Demonstrations don't help matters. I find it very sad that people should treat something as important as this without the respect it deserves. We hope the relatives of the people that died on the Coventry will not feel too disappointed."

"I wish they could have seen the ship going into the water, but it was not possible in the circumstances. Our main commitment is to the customer."

The decision to go ahead with the secret launch was Continued on page 20, col 3

FROM APRIL 12TH

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Sir Keith signals move from education post as speculation grows

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday appeared to accept that his days at the department were numbered after growing speculation that the Prime Minister was preparing to replace him.

During Commons questions on education, Sir Keith spoke of "the department of which I am at present the head" and "the department of which I am at the moment the head".

But Mr Giles Radice, the Opposition spokesman asked for Sir Keith's resignation.

He said: "As an honest man, will be accept that when the candidates for the succession so publicly and obviously submit their competitive job applications, and when he has clearly lost the confidence of pupils, teachers and local authorities, the time has come for him to stand down and let somebody else clear up the mess."

Sir Keith replied: "It is one of the by-products of the present tragic situation in schools that all parties in this House acknowledge that higher standards from state education services are greatly to be desired for the benefit of all children and the benefit of the country."

"I am hopeful that out of that general recognition much good can come from the present miseries."

Sir Keith has responded angrily to a report in *The Times* yesterday about proposed cuts in polytechnic places. He suggests that the cuts either will not or do not have to happen.

In a letter, published in today's issue, Sir Keith makes clear his annoyance with the National Advisory Body for making proposals for cuts in student numbers based on a single, pessimistic guess about the likely level of funding in the academic year 1987-88.

He says he has repeatedly asked the body, which advises him on public sector higher education, to plan for a number of possibilities, but it has chosen not to do this.

Sir Keith appears to suspect the NAB of "crying wolf" to bring more money out of the Treasury. He says no decisions have been taken about levels of funding, or closure of polytechnic courses or departments.

NAB officials, acting on instructions from its committee, have estimated that 9,500 student places will have to go next year because funding is £13 million below what is needed.

They propose that science and engineering places should be cut by between 5 and 6 per cent, and the humanities and science by 17 per cent, to make an overall cut of 7 per cent in student numbers.

Confidential letters spelling out how that would affect each polytechnic and college were received on Monday. The proposals, which show, for example, departments of civil engineering and fine art having to close down, will now be subject to consultation.

The committee will make its decisions in the autumn and these will be sent as recommendations to Sir Keith.

The NAB has decided it must safeguard the quality of its courses, and will therefore abandon its previous policy of taking more and more students for the same amount of money.

Sir Keith implicitly rejects this argument. He says that even if it is right about funding, it does not have to cut student numbers because its staff/student ratio is still below target.

Polytechnic and college lecturers received a 7.25 per cent pay increase last year on condition that they worked more efficiently.

Parliament, page 4



Lord Whitelaw tries his hand at playing the sitar during a visit to the Institute of Indian Affairs while canvassing in the Fulham by-election yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Prescott offers Fulham jobs prospect

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The prospect of 4,000 jobs being created in the Fulham area during the first two years of a Labour government was offered yesterday by Labour's employment spokesman, Mr John Prescott.

But in the run-up to tomorrow's by-election he said that the jobs were almost certainly dependent on Labour's winning control of the local authority in next month's council elections and preparing a special package of job-creating measures in advance of Mr Neil Kinnock's becoming Prime Minister.

Labour wants to create a million jobs nationwide within two years of gaining office and Mr Prescott emphasized

the effect of allowing local authorities to spend £6 billion of capital receipts from council house sales, putting unemployed construction workers back to work and increasing the house building programme, which was now 2,000 homes a week less than Labour's record.

Unemployment in Fulham, which has been one of the main strands in the campaign of the Labour candidate, Mr Nick Raynsford, has increased from 4.5 per cent to about 13 per cent since 1979.

"What we say to the local authorities is that Labour's one million jobs will require them to put their packages together in a special investment fund that we are now

planning as a party," Mr Prescott said.

The Conservative candidate, Mr Matthew Carrington, returned to his familiar by-election tactic of attacking the extremists in the Labour Party and claimed that he would get more than 40 per cent of votes to give him victory.

His canvassing returns, which he insists on keeping secret, unlike his two opponents, put him "very well ahead", with the SDP support collapsing fast, he said to the surprise of by-election observers.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, joined the assault on Labour's hard left by saying that Mr Raynsford, a moderate Labour candidate,

was "the smile on the face of the tiger".

Mr Kinnock could not deal with militancy inside the Labour Party because it was too deeply entrenched, he said.

For his attack, the SDP candidate, Mr Roger Little, pointed to the Tories' "fumbling and bumbling" campaign and said there was evidence of a slide in the Conservative vote, with "weak" Tory supporters going over to the Alliance in significant numbers.

● Ladbroke's has stopped taking bets on Labour to win the Fulham by-election and now takes bets on who will be second. The odds are 8-1 the Tories and even the Alliance.

Miners' case to be heard in January

By a Staff Reporter

An action by the Receiver of the National Union of Mineworkers, seeking damages and costs against those responsible for putting £8.5 million of union assets outside the reach of sequestrators, should be tried some time next January, a High Court judge decided yesterday.

Mr Justice Warner had been asked by the Receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, for a date in October, but the judge said it was "unlikely" that justice would be done if the trial was that early.

Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, Mr Mick McCarthy, NUM vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, who are being sued as former trustees of the union, did not oppose an October trial.

Opposition to an early trial came from several defendant banks, which allegedly transferred union funds out of reach.

Their counsel emphasized the complexity of the case and said it would be unrealistic to expect them to be ready for the trial, which is expected to last two months, in October.

The receivership has recovered union funds transferred overseas. The claims were for the difference between the funds recovered and the money that could have been obtained if the funds had been properly invested within British jurisdiction.

Bamford outlines Land Rover bid

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A team from J C Bamford, the North Staffordshire manufacturer of construction machinery, presented an outline proposal of a bid for Land Rover yesterday to Hill Samuel, the BL advisers. The company will visit Land Rover's Solihull headquarters today.

Mr Anthony Bamford, chairman and managing director, said that he was approached by the Department of Trade and Industry more than six months ago to make a bid, but then the Government refused to separate Land Rover from the Leyland truck and bus operation.

"We were not interested in the commercial vehicle side so we did not pursue the matter at that time. However, more recently the position changed and they are now ready to accept proposals for Land Rover Ltd."

Mr Bamford said that his privately owned Midlands-based company was highly

profitable and rapidly growing. It was founded 40 years ago by his father and was a world leader. It was particularly strong in Europe and North America, where Land Rover marketing was weak.

Last year, the Bamford company JCB made a pre-tax profit of £25 million and, more important, has never shown a loss. It had an impressive 27.3 per cent return on investment and had no borrowings. All growth has been financed from profits.

JCB had no plans to "make a fast buck" by floating Land Rover on the Stock Exchange. It would become a privately owned family company.

He saw no problems in raising the purchase price or subsequent financing to develop new models. "With our financial strength we have very strong borrowing facilities."

BL has set Tuesday as the deadline for proposals.

Sales loss of £240m claimed

Austin Rover lost sales of up to 40,000 cars worth £240 million at retail prices in the past three months because of damaging speculation about a takeover by Ford, it was claimed yesterday (our Motoring Correspondent writes).

Mr Mark Snowden, Austin Rover's managing director of product development, said that, despite the threat to Ford being removed by the Government, his company was still suffering from the continued speculation about the future of other companies in the BL group.

He said the latest upheaval came after a damaging "long, cold summer" last year when the BL Corporate Plan was awaiting approval by the Government.

Mr Snowden also announced that agreement had just been signed to use surplus capacity at the company's Longbridge plant to build 4,000 Honda Ballades annually for sale in Britain.

£3.5m campaign launched to promote job schemes

By Gavin Bell

The Secretary of State for Employment, Lord Young of Graffham, yesterday launched a £3.5 million campaign to publicize government employment schemes after research showed widespread ignorance of the programmes run by his department and the Manpower Services Commission.

The essential element of the campaign is a 40-page booklet, *Action for Jobs*, that brings together for the first time information on more than 30 schemes, ranging from community employment opportunities to training facilities and incentives for starting and expanding small businesses.

More than two million copies have been distributed to Post Offices, job centres

and unemployment benefit offices throughout England, Scotland and Wales. Advertisements are planned in national and about seventy regional evening newspapers, as well as on commercial radio stations.

"We are reaching out to the unemployed and to the employed," Lord Young told a press conference. "To those who have been out of work for a long time and have given up hope, and to those who want to employ them by establishing or expanding small businesses."

Lord Young said that the aim of the campaign was not to create jobs but to show how to take advantage of government help and opportunities. There were 800,000 places to

be filled in the various schemes over the next year. "I have become increasingly conscious that people are left bewildered by the variety of opportunities available to them. They are confused by, or ignorant of, the range of our activities."

Mr Morgan Johnson, the managing director of an advertising agency involved in the project, said research last July showed that more than half of those interviewed could not name a single government employment scheme, while most employers felt the schemes were confusing and difficult to use.

Department officials said the booklet would be mailed to careers advisers

UDR man dies in booby-trap blast

Republican terrorists killed an off-duty member of the security forces yesterday as a "loyalist" mob continued to bring terror by attacking the homes of off-duty officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Private William Pollock, aged 27, a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, died after a booby-trap bomb exploded as he hitched a trailer to his car near Castleblaney, Co Tyrone.

Private Pollock, who was married six months ago, had left the trailer overnight at the side of the road giving the terrorists an opportunity to plot their attack.

The man's father, who was in the car when the bomb exploded, was taken to hospital with severe shock. The attack was designed to keep up pressure on the security forces and to inflame still further loyalist anger. Private Pollock is the 154th member of the regiment to be killed since its foundation.

Early yesterday, loyalists attacked policemen's homes for the eighth consecutive day, though many Unionist politicians believe the attacks are counter-productive.

House Ulster uproar

Continued from page 1 support but the appreciation of the entire Northern Ireland community. Those loyalist members of this House who have consistently come in here to lecture the rest of us on law and order now stand finally exposed as to what they mean by law and order; they mean their law and their order.

"Would the Secretary of State agree with me that some honourable members of this House — if I can use the adjective only because I am supposed to use the adjective honourable — are in fact engaged in organizing violence and encouraging the violence against the police in Northern Ireland in an outright campaign against the democratic process in order to create an atmosphere of fear in Northern Ireland so that decent people will not speak up against it?"

He finally asked Mr King to agree that Mr Powell "has presented himself for most of this century in the House as the upholder of the sovereignty of Parliament. But he abandoned that today, abjectly, and in so doing abandoned the rule of law."

Mr King said some Unionists had condemned violence, and others had felt unable to do so. Parliament, page 4

Instead of undermining the police force, they have probably reinforced its esprit de corps and have done enormous damage. To the Unionist political campaign, Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said he would be prepared to talk among local community groups to end the violence against the police and cool the situation in loyalist areas.

The Rev Martin Smyth, official Unionist MP for Belfast South, said he thought the onslaught was counter-productive because the police had not been towed by attacks that had taken more than 200 lives during the troubles and would not now cow easily.

Early yesterday, seven policemen and their families were attacked by mobs who fired bullets and hurled bricks and petrol bombs at homes in Bangor, Dungannon, Killeel, Belfast and Antrim.

Since March 3 there have been 140 attacks on the police and 18 officers have been forced to flee their homes in a campaign that Sir John Hermon, the RUC's Chief Constable, says has been organized by "sinister elements".

'Violent' prisoner at large

Continued from page 1

small room in a corner of an admissions ward on the third floor of the in-patients wing. He was the only patient on his own in a room. There were eight other patients in the open ward.

According to police he was visited by his wife, a second woman and a man after he was admitted to the hospital. Yesterday, Det Superintendent Robert Andrews, in charge of investigating the escape, refused to comment on the identity of the other two visitors or what happened during the visit.

But he described what he said was an "obviously planned" raid by three or four men dressed in dark boiler suits and ski masks yesterday morning.

It was just after 6am and patients were still asleep. The raiders made their way to the

ward where they attacked one guard outside and two sitting by Mr Knowlden's bed.

The attack was described by police as sudden and vicious. One guard was hit with an iron bar and another kicked in the head. Ammonia was sprayed by the raiders and one guard was saved from serious eye damage by swift medical attention after the attack.

Asked if Mr Knowlden might have been forcibly taken, Mr Andrews said: "I don't think he went against his will."

● A second prisoner also escaped yesterday in an unconnected incident. Kieron Pallett, aged 21, slipped away from his mother's coffin as he was being put in a grave in Plumstead cemetery, south London. He was serving a four-year sentence for grievous bodily harm and burglary.

Leak about debts a smear, MP says

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich and a member of the party's national executive, claimed yesterday that she had been the victim of a political smear campaign after revelations about her debts.

There was controversy and some sympathy at Westminster yesterday about the leak of Mrs Dunwoody's unpaid House of Commons catering bills, which amount to more than £2,000.

Labour whips have been asked by the Commons catering subcommittee to encourage her to settle the bills quickly. Mr Charles Irving, the chairman, denied that it was planning to take legal action.

"The matter is in the hands of the whips," he said. "It is their responsibility to look after these matters. I have never known a case in which things were not settled in this way."

Mr Irving said that he would be mounting an inquiry to trace the source of the leak. "I am very sorry that this whole thing seems to have attracted a mammoth amount of unnecessary attention."

"I do not deny there is a debt but we do not discuss confiden-

tial information between the refreshment department and its customers."

The City of London Corporation is due to take Mrs Dunwoody to court next Tuesday to try to repossess her two-bedroom flat in the Barbican because of rent arrears.

However, Crewe and Nantwich council has received a cheque for £1,117 to clear outstanding rates arrears on her home in her constituency, two weeks after a distress warrant was served.

Mrs Dunwoody, who said that she would not be seeing the whips about the unpaid catering bill because it would be settled later this week, said that a "malevolent" anonymous phone caller was behind the revelations.

As an MP she receives a salary of £17,702 a year, plus secretarial expenses. She also has a £4,000 annual retainer from her job as parliamentary adviser to the British Fur Trade Association, a post that angered many of her party colleagues. She was voted off the Shadow Cabinet last year.

An association spokesman said yesterday: "We have a contract with her which expires in two or three years' time. There will consider the situation. There is no

reason for us to wish to lose her; she has been very helpful to us."

Mrs Dunwoody denied that her financial difficulties were caused by expenses at her large detached house in Crewe.

"It was a massive investment and it was an added complication," she said.

"I am the ideal MP for Crewe and Nantwich because as a single woman trying to maintain not one but two homes I can understand the problems my constituents have better than most, and I have never in a long life of politics had to make anonymous phone calls about my opponents and their private peccadilloes in business or in personal life."

Mr Ken Jones, a member of Crewe council and former chairman of the constituency Labour party, said that he was surprised at the revelations but her personal finances were a private matter and no concern of the constituency party.

Mr David Hood, a Cheshire county councillor and Mrs Dunwoody's agent for 11 years, said that he would not be surprised if she had been too generous for her own good. "She has got herself into a financial mess which is a personal matter

"She has had considerable expense in setting up her home in Crewe and has had to maintain her London address also. That flat must cost her about £1,000 a month. I know that people have offered to settle her debts, but she is proud and independent and has refused offers of help," he said.

Mrs Dunwoody is the senior partner in a computer company, it was disclosed yesterday. She owns 99 of the 100 shares in Dunwoody Computers.

The other 1 per cent is owned by Mr Hood, an insurance executive.

He said yesterday: "There is no mystery about this company. Its purpose is to develop a political software program to make the lives of MPs and other professional politicians easier."

"It will help MPs to keep a vast variety of things at their fingertips. We are hoping to use modern technology and communications to improve the efficiency of MPs, regional Labour parties and the like."

"So far it has not got off the ground. Mrs Dunwoody set up the company and I am helping her. The £8,000 capital is the value of the computer equipment we are using to develop the program. No one has had a penny out of it yet."



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LONDON AND NANTWICH

Cheap record pioneers are WH Smith's prize in £43m takeover

By Teresa Poole

The Our Price chain of record shops, which was a driving force behind the spread of cut-price music stores in the mid-1970s, yesterday became the latest prize in the round of high street mergers when it agreed to a £43 million bid from WH Smith, the newsagents.

The 130 shops will continue to trade under the Our Price name and WH Smith is planning up to 40 new shops in the next year at a cost of £3 million, with particular emphasis on the Midlands and the North of England.

The takeover will lift WH Smith's share of the retail market for records, cassettes, compact discs and music videos to about 18 per cent.

The founders of Our Price, Mr Gary Nesbitt, the chairman, and Mr Michael Isaacs, the deputy chairman, will continue to manage the company.

For Mr Nesbitt, the bid values his original £900 investment at almost £6 million and vindicates what he now calls his "pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap" philosophy of 10 years ago.

Mr Nesbitt first thought of entering the music business in 1971 after finding it difficult

to buy cassettes for his car stereo system.

While continuing to work as a director of Grand Metropolitan's casino operations, he joined in business with Mr Isaacs and set up the first Tape Revolution shop in north London, at a cost of £3,000, selling pre-recorded cassettes.

By 1976, there were five London stores and the company was looking for a way to break into the record market.

Mr Richard Branson's first Virgin record store had opened in 1972 above a shoe shop in Oxford Street offering cheap records and exclusive imports. Mr Nesbitt decided to concentrate on discounting the high sales volume records in the music charts.

"We came up with the concept of Our Price. Retailers were doing it with paint and with electrical goods but the music industry was behind the times. It just went like a snowball."

"Virgin was aimed more at the trendy, cult, student market, people who wouldn't have been seen dead walking down the road with a garish Our Price bag," he said.

Price competition was fierce, with the high street multiples, WH Smith, Boots

and Woolworth, playing a part in forcing down prices. By 1979, Our Price had 10 shops and Mr Nesbitt decided to leave Grand Metropolitan and work full time at Our Price.

The next year, with £1.25 million finance from Midland Bank, Our Price bought the 41 Harlequin record shops and an era of heady expansion began. A stock market flotation in 1984 valued the company at £14 million and last year the company made profits of almost £2 million.

"The market is less price competitive now. What matters today is certainly value, but also the environment, selection and service," Mr Nesbitt said.

Under WH Smith, Our Price will continue to concentrate on smaller outlets.

Other players in the market, particularly Virgin and HMV, have gone the other way over the past few years and invested in music "megastores" which stock an enormous number of titles in record, cassette and compact disc form.

According to the British Phonographic Industry, which represents the record companies, the days of "lunatic discounts" are over.

Mr Ian Duffell, managing director of HMV, said: "The difference between retailers now is style more than anything. There is a certain loyalty because the image is right for the customer. It's very like fashion really."

There are no plans to merge those businesses with Our Price or to reduce the music selling space within the WH Smith stores.



The Princess of Wales braving the cold as she arrived at Fimley for a tour of South Yorkshire yesterday

Residents of flats will get right to buy from landlord

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Residents of privately owned mansion blocks of flats are to be given important rights of tenure and ownership under proposals announced by the Government yesterday.

They come after the report last November of the Nugee committee, which recommended reforms to tackle the problems of management in such blocks, housing about 500,000 people, particularly in London and the South-east.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, said in the Commons that the Government accepted the main recommendations of the committee, chaired by Mr Edward Nugee, QC, and in two matters went further.

The committee had said that residents should have the collective right of first refusal to buy the block where the landlord wished to dispose of his interest. The Government proposed that the residents of blocks wholly or substantially occupied by long leaseholders should have the right to purchase the landlord's interest at market price if they satisfied a court that the landlord has persistently failed in his duties.

In addition, the Government has added to the committee's recommendations that more should be

done to involve residents in the selection of managing agents by giving recognized residents' associations a right to require the landlord to consult them about the appointment of agents and to consult them thereafter.

Mr Baker said that it was clear from the work of the committee, which was set up in 1984, that there were severe problems affecting the management of many blocks of flats.

Mr Baker, who said that legislation would be introduced as soon as possible, accepted the committee's recommendations for the development of the procedure for appointing a receiver and manager if a landlord or his agent neglected the property or failed to carry out the necessary work; a procedure to vary leases if there was an important defect in them; and tighter control over money paid into service charge accounts and reserves.

The Government has stalled on one of the main recommendations: to appoint assessors in the county court to deal quickly and cheaply with disputes on housing matters. That is because it is one of the issues being considered in the review of civil justice set up last year.

Portfolio game to go gold in relaunch

The Times Portfolio competition is to be relaunched next Monday, April 14, as *The Times Portfolio Gold*.

The current blue Portfolio cards will be replaced by Portfolio Gold cards, which will be available to Times readers from their newsagents during this week.

The new daily prize will be doubled to £4,000 and the weekly prize will be £8,000.

Portfolio

Details of the new game and how it will be played will appear in *The Times* this week.

The attraction of the new Portfolio Gold is expected to increase the demand for copies of *The Times*; it will be wise to make sure your copy is ordered at your newsagent.

Readers experiencing any difficulty in obtaining a Portfolio Gold card should send an s.a.e. to:

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The Times,
P.O. Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Falklands aid

The Government is to provide £3.1 million for an improved water supply in Port Stanley, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said yesterday during a visit to the Falklands.

Lloyds to repay Playboy fraud funds

The Playboy Club, which allowed a young solicitor to gamble away more than £300,000 of clients' money, does not have to repay the cash, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

But Lloyds Bank, whose manager "wilfully shut his eyes" to the fraud, is liable to repay an estimated £120,000

to a London firm of solicitors, Lipkin Gorman which has made good the losses to their clients.

Mr Justice Allott ruled that Playboy did not know that Norman Cass, aged 37, was using other people's money when he lost up to £400,000 at the roulette wheel in its casino in Park Lane during a seven-

month period in 1980.

The Playboy, now owned by Karpnale, a non-trading division of the Pleasure Group, and no longer operating as a casino, had denied liability.

The judge ordered it to repay £1,735 after the casino cashed a bank draft for Mr Cass.

But Lipkin Gorman were also responsible for estimated

£122,000 losses after October 1980 when they found that he had been unlawfully claiming expenses but was still allowed to draw on clients accounts.

Lloyds, which denied liability, won its £5,000 counterclaim against the solicitors who had underwritten an overdraft facility for Mr Cass on his personal account.

Men 'castrated without consent'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Surgeons are castrating men suffering from cancer without their informed consent as part of a medical trial that has little or no scientific value, an ethical watchdog organization has claimed.

The trial, sponsored by the Medical Research Council, should be halted at once and the patients who have undergone the operation should be told exactly why the surgery was performed, the Institute of Medical Ethics says in its bulletin published this week.

More than 50 men have been castrated since the trial began last year. The patients are elderly men who have developed cancer of the prostate gland, a condition diagnosed in about 8,000 cases a year. Castration, technically known as orchiectomy, is one common form of treatment, but is not a cure.

The council trial's main objective is to determine whether the operation is best performed immediately after diagnosis or whether it should be deferred until serious symptoms of the spread of the cancer have appeared.

Immediate surgery is not known to improve survival and many specialists are uncertain about which is the best course of action.

But, according to the IME bulletin, the trial is 20 years too late because of advances in treatment of the disease, including monthly drug injections, which some research has shown to be as effective as the operation.

In an attack on the trial, the

bulletin's editor, Dr Richard Nicholson, said it is not required that patients have to be told of the alternatives to castration.

"What appears to be happening is that participating surgeons are deciding that typical, potential subjects—old, a bit doddering, and probably from Social Class IV or V—are not capable of making up their own minds about participation in the trial, and that the surgeons should do it for them."

"Old men up and down the country are being castrated without their informed consent for the benefit of a trial, sponsored by the Medical Research Council, that is of little, and possibly no, scientific value."

The Medical Research Council issued a statement yesterday, saying that the claims in the IME bulletin were unfounded. The operation was accepted as the safest form of active treatment for a patient with advanced prostate cancer, it said.

"If the patient objects to the operation he is allowed such alternative therapy as he may choose following further discussion with his surgeon. If orchiectomy is undertaken it is carried out only after the completion of a standard consent form to operation."

It said the protocol for the trial had been screened and agreed by four separate committees of the council, all of which considered both the scientific and ethical basis of the study.

Yacht man 'so lucky to be alive'

A round-the-world yachtman who was rescued after bailing out his sinking boat for eight days arrived home today saying: "I am just so lucky to be."

Mr James Hatfield, aged 29, who has had eight heart operations and was sailing round the world to raise money for heart research at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, was rescued by a merchant vessel in 35ft waves in the South Pacific.

"I couldn't have carried on for much longer but you don't really know how long you can keep going. When you know it is all there is between you and a long walk home you keep going. It is amazing what you can do when you are pushed," he said when he arrived at Heathrow airport.

When his boat, British Heart, of Ipswich, started to take water, Mr Hatfield was 283 days into his journey, about 2,800 miles from Cape Horn and about 2,000 miles from Auckland.

He said he spent eight days round the clock with no sleep, bailing out the boat with a hand pump. He kept in touch with New Zealand amateur radio and they alerted a container ship to rescue him.

Mr Hatfield, from Ipswich, believes that his journey raised about £80,000 and he said he would have another go if he can find the sponsorship money.

Manx censor bans play

A play set in a Turkish bath involving female customers in nude scenes has been banned in the Isle of Man under a 1916 Act of the Manx Parliament.

The ban on Neil Dunn's *Steaming* has started a political dispute in the island, which also has a Postcard Censoring Committee to control postcard humour.

Coleman wins adjournment

A charge against the BBC sports commentator, David Coleman, of driving with too much alcohol was adjourned until April 22 by magistrates at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday.

Mr Philip Singer, for the defence, said that Gill had been "chillingly frank" about his activities. He expressed his great "shame and remorse" and the 17 months he had been behind bars awaiting trial had been a "nightmare".

Man jailed for helping Libyan escape justice

A businessman was jailed for five years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for helping a Libyan facing drug charges to escape the country.

Andrew Gill, aged 49, hired a private aircraft to fly Mr Muhammad Shebli, aged 37, back to Tripoli before he could face trial.

Mr Shebli, believed to be a relative of Colonel Gaddafi, vanished six days before he was due to appear at Croydon Crown Court in August 1984.

Judge Michael Underhill, QC, told Gill: "You made all the arrangements for the procurement of the aircraft and

drew together the threads of the whole plot."

Gill, of Farmfield Road, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex, had pleaded guilty to conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Gill was described as a "Walter Mitty character" who became involved in Libyan intrigues.

Mr Philip Singer, for the defence, said that Gill had been "chillingly frank" about his activities. He expressed his great "shame and remorse" and the 17 months he had been behind bars awaiting trial had been a "nightmare".

Action against drug profits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to seek agreements with other countries to prevent organized crime from feeding off drug trafficking.

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, said yesterday that the aim was to build on the powers given by the Drugs Trafficking Offences Bill now before Parliament. The Bill is intended to deprive traffickers of their gains.

Mr Hurd said: "We know that what interests the big traffickers is money, not drugs. We also know that to a growing extent other forms of organized crime feed off the profits of drugs."

"Knowledge that if they are convicted of drug trafficking they will stand to lose their ill-gotten gains, combined with the prospect of long prison sentences, will act as a powerful disincentive to getting involved in this appalling trade."

"Confiscation will also remove from the drugs world proceeds that could otherwise be used to finance further, bigger drugs deals."

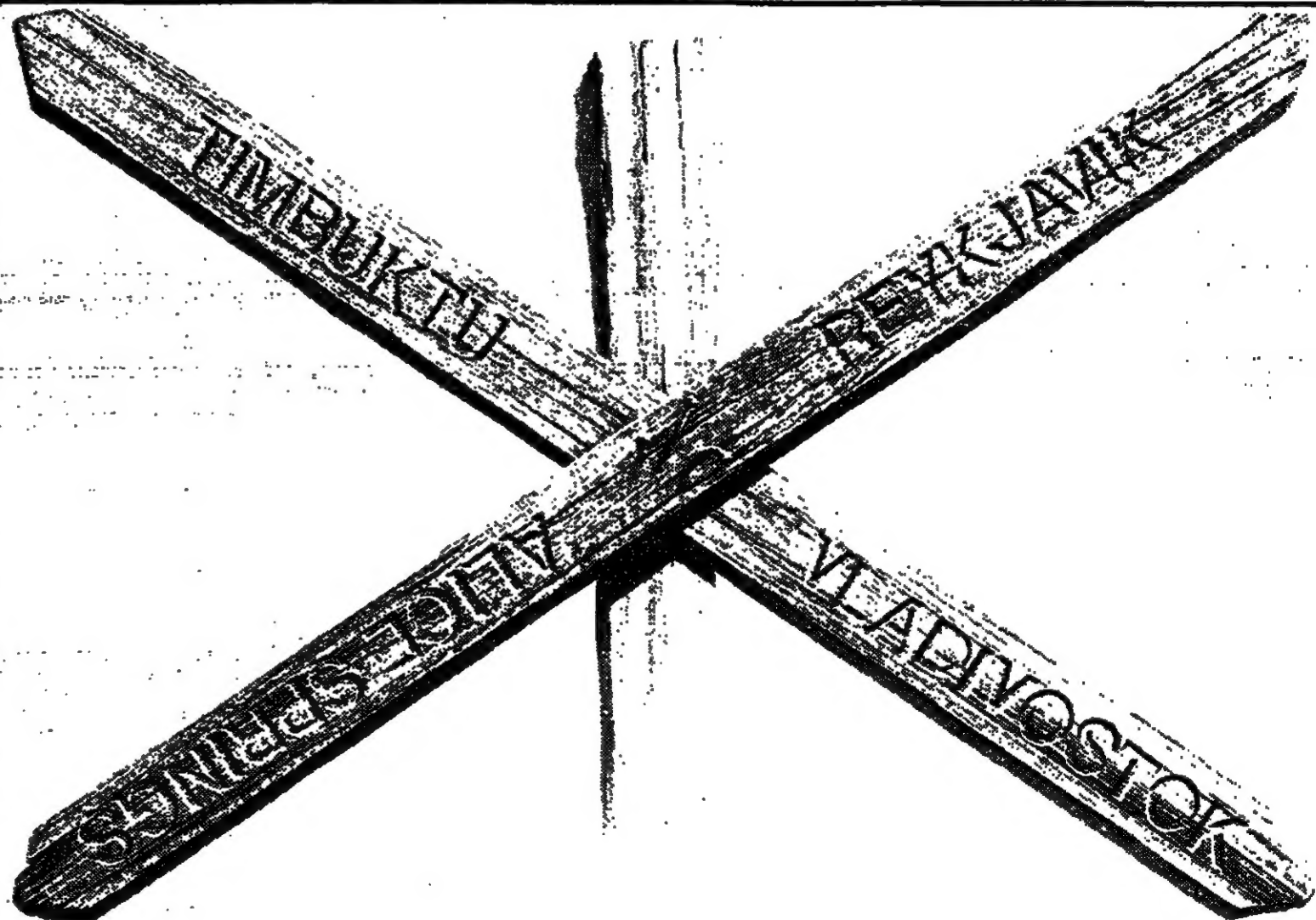
International co-operation was vital and the Government intended to build on the powers which would be given by the new Bill by negotiating mutual enforcement agreements with other countries.

Mr Hurd, who was addressing a conference in Wakefield on drugs organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers, said there was much to be proud of in the work last year against drug trafficking.

He heard success stories each week. But all the indicators showed drugs misuse increasing at an alarming rate.

"This week on the streets of south London you can pick up, with little difficulty, a grain of heroin for £80—that is an average four days' supply."

"Supplies of all drugs are still plentiful and the sources of supply are still multiplying," he said.



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PARLIAMENT APRIL 8 1986

Thatcher condemns attacks on police

ULSTER

Attacks on the police in Northern Ireland were condemned during Commons questions by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, who expressed her determination to continue with the Anglo-Irish agreement and urged all decent Unionists to condemn such actions and do their best to ensure they did not recur.

She had been asked by Mr William Boyd (Milton Keynes, C): In view of the recent appalling events in Protestant Loyalist Ulster, has not the time come when we should consider very carefully the expenditure of money and lives in keeping Ulster in the United Kingdom?

Mrs Thatcher: I share the view of the House that the recent events in Ulster when the police have been attacked in a terrible way which all of us would utterly condemn, I think we must carry on with the Anglo-Irish accord and do our best to try to restore some peace and stability to the Province and really must call on all decent Unionists to condemn this kind of activity and do their best to see no more occurs.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said he completely endorsed the Prime Minister's words and hoped that the message went out to all parts of the community in Northern Ireland that the Government was determined to ensure that the police will uphold their duty totally impartially and will not be intimidated by those in a particular political position who had expected the police to administer the law in a discriminating way and their respect for law had evaporated when they had discovered that they, too, were to be subject to the law.

Those who warned that plastic bullets were a dangerous method of crowd control had been shown to be right by the injuries to Keith White recently. He asked for consideration of a Labour suggestion that there should be a special scheme of compensation for police and others whose jobs involved special risk.

Mr King: I am in no doubt that the overwhelming majority of people in the Province, regardless of their views, would be appalled by the attacks on the police.

It is regrettable that some political leaders, some of whom

King calls on all Unionists to speak out against violence

TERRORISM

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, repeated his call on all political leaders in Northern Ireland, including some Westminster MPs, to condemn the present violence against members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and their families. When he criticized Mr Enoch Powell for not including a condemnation in his question, Mr Powell shouted: Everyone knows.

Mr King made a statement on the safety of RUC members and their families in which he said there had been 138 attacks on RUC members in the past month. He condemned the attacks as cowardly and disgraceful.

He said that the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, with the full support of the police authority and of the Superintendent's Association and the Police Federation, had put in hand arrangements to provide quick and effective assistance to police officers and families subject to attack or other forms of intimidation.

Patrols were being mounted in vulnerable areas and steps had been taken to provide suitable alternative accommodation for those unfortunate enough to have to move from their homes. The police were also making strenuous efforts to bring those responsible for this criminal behaviour to justice. A considerable number had been charged with serious offences associated with it.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, who had asked for the statement, said that the violence was deplorable, from whatever political sector it was committed by the vast majority of right-thinking people in the Unionist tradition. Those politicians who had not dissociated themselves from the violence should make clear where they stood.

Violence appeared to stem from those in a particular political position who had expected the police to administer the law in a discriminating way and their respect for law had evaporated when they had discovered that they, too, were to be subject to the law.

Those who warned that plastic bullets were a dangerous method of crowd control had been shown to be right by the injuries to Keith White recently. He asked for consideration of a Labour suggestion that there should be a special scheme of compensation for police and others whose jobs involved special risk.

Mr King: I am in no doubt that the overwhelming majority of people in the Province, regardless of their views, would be appalled by the attacks on the police.

It is regrettable that some political leaders, some of whom



Rees: RUC are there for one reason

sit in this House, have not felt able to condemn, without qualification, these attacks. One of the nastiest aspects is the sectarian attacks which the House will deplore.

He knew of one officer who had been attacked and had been reported on the radio as saying that the effect would be, not to undermine morale, but to make the RUC stick together more closely as a family against terrorism, as they had for 17 years, and that they would not stop now because the terrorism came from a different quarter.

He understood the problems and difficulties of plastic bullets but was not prepared to see the police defenceless against that sort of violence, although he regretted the sort of injuries which had been caused to Mr White even though he had been taking part in an illegal march.

Mr John Bigger-Davison (Epping Forest, C): Was it not forecast from these benches that the RUC would be there for one reason?

Mr King: I hope he is not condemning the violence and am sure that he would wish to be associated with the condemnation that the RUC should be placed in that sort of situation. Many people who have the strongest feelings and who wish to argue about it and to see an alternative approach, would not dream of condoning violence and I trust that we respect that approach and not the other, which espouses violence.

We have made clear that we are willing to talk with those who are willing to talk with the Unionist leaders. I have received letters from Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley expressing certain points and concerns and we shall be responding soon.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OI/UL): Does Mr King regard the attacks on members of the RUC, but for the agreement the statement he has made today would not have been made. Mr King: I am grateful for his clear, unequivocal support for

to the evil counsellors to whom they listened instead? (Conservative protest).

Mr King: I am, of course, well aware of his feelings about this agreement, but I hope he would feel able to include in his remarks his condemnation of the violence shown to the RUC. On the one hand, I hope he will feel able to, even now.

Mr Powell: Everyone knows.

Sir Eddon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C): Why do certain elected Unionist MPs approve the use of baton rounds when they are directed at Sinn Féin mobs but object to them when they are used against Loyalist mobs?

Would he explain to the House and the men and women of the RUC how it is that protection specifically asked for and specifically promised was not forthcoming until after the petrol bombers had struck?

Mr King: It is for the Unionist MPs or whoever he has in mind to respond to his first point, but I have noted the comments made elsewhere on that matter.

On the second point, he is referring to the Under-Secretary's reply that if resources and help were needed and asked for they would be given. It is precisely what we are doing at the request of the Chief Constable.

Mr Marilyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab): Where the situation is getting worse every day, where the politicians do not count, and where, whatever the reason, they dare not put their hands above the police, what would he ask the Prime Minister to go on television and talk to the people of Northern Ireland as Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party, explaining to the people over there can have any views they like about the Anglo-Irish Agreement, a political agreement, but the RUC have become a British police force there for one reason - to uphold the laws on violence - and that is what they are doing?

Mr King: The Prime Minister will have noted his comments. During his and other MPs' terms of office as Northern Ireland Secretary, more than 200 members of the RUC have laid down their lives in defence of the Province against terrorism and they are entitled to the support of everybody in the Province and in the United Kingdom.

Will the politicians do not count any more it is perhaps because it has not yet been possible to get discussions going. This is a political matter which needs to be discussed by politicians and not by members of the RUC. That is why it is so important that we get early discussions.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C): On these benches those who support and those who oppose the Anglo-Irish Agreement join with him in condemning totally attacks on members of the RUC. But for the agreement the statement he has made today would not have been made. Mr King: I am grateful for his clear, unequivocal support for

Exam to go ahead

Minister rejects pleas to delay new examination

EDUCATION

There could not be a national education syllabus in this country determined by the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, Mr Charles Patten, Minister of State for Education and Science, said in reply to Commons questions about the introduction of the General Certificate of Secondary Education examination.

The programme of preparation for the GCSE was thorough and of high quality, he claimed. Never before had so much been done to prepare all teachers for examination reform.

Mr Michael Shersby (Uxbridge, C) asked: Can he assure headteachers that given the additional training and resources made available there is the necessary time available for proper planning by teachers, bearing in mind that parents of third year pupils in my constituency will have to make a choice of subjects very shortly?

Mr Patten: I would like to give that assurance. I know of the concern about the syllabus. There is no reason why proper choices should not be made on the basis of available information, including national criteria and the draft syllabus which have been in schools for some months.

Mr Alan Bell (Berkswick-upon-Tweed, L) said few teachers would recognize the state of preparedness. Most parents at this stage would rather not apportion blame. They were more concerned about ensuring that their children were adequately prepared for the examination.

Postponement had to be much more seriously considered than had been.

Mr Patten: Postponement would lead to the very chaos its supporters seem to fear. That is overwhelmingly the case. Most fair-minded heads and teachers would accept that there has been a change from the way the school leaving age, the CSE or the raising of the school leaving age.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C): The Secretary of State has said that the Select Committee on Education this morning teachers' disruption had the introduction of the GCSE less assured.

Will he give an assurance that despite that problem teachers already planning for this important educational reform should go ahead whatever happens so that parents may be quite certain that their children's education is well looked after?

Mr Patten: We shall press ahead. I hope that in all the teachers' associations and unions wiser counsels will prevail than some of the things that were said last week.

Mr David Madel (Bedfordshire South West, C) asked if the Government was ready to deal with disruption of curricula in September.

Mr Patten said that if some teachers' unions did what they were saying last week they would do it, it raised far greater questions than introduction of the GCSE.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said Labour shared the Government's support for the new examination. However, did Mr Patten know that not only teachers, but also the national federation of parent-teacher associations, many local authorities and two out of the five examining groups had expressed strong reservations about the new course going ahead as planned?

Was Mr Patten seriously telling MPs that, without a lot more resources and more adequate preparation, it was really fair to next year's fourth year pupils to start work on the new exam?

Mr Patten said he saw no reason why every teacher should not have had perfectly adequate training by the end of next term. The GCSE syllabus had been set for 1985 and, in any case, much of the machinery needed had already been dismantled.

● A document published in *The Times* today containing instructions for secondary school governors for a left-wing group in St Helens was compulsory reading for anyone who wanted to know how the extreme left worked, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said.

She was replying to Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribblesdale, C) who raised the issue and said the document aimed to destabilize, damage and destroy the relationship of teachers with governors and children within schools. The document was circulating in the North West of England.



Geoffrey Smith

When it was first known that there was to be a by-election in Fulham my initial reaction was that this would be a good opportunity for the Alliance.

Here was a seat which had for years gone to Labour, which the Conservatives had won in 1979 and 1983, but which they would obviously have the greatest difficulty in holding in a mid-term by-election. Just the kind of chance that the Alliance needed, so it seemed, to come through the middle.

But the more the constituency has been subjected to scrutiny the more it has become evident that there is a missing factor.

Most reports from Fulham have drawn attention to its social polarization these days: more than most places now it is divided quite clearly between the fairly rich and the fairly poor. That means that the quintessential Alliance voter is this on the ground in Fulham.

That, I believe, more than the nature of the campaign, explains why Labour is so widely expected to win tomorrow. I do not say that in criticism of the Labour candidate, Mr Nick Raynsford, who has appeared to be the most assured of the contenders.

But Mr Roger Liddle has fought a vigorous campaign for the Alliance and Mr Matthew Carrington, the Conservative, has seemed more at ease in direct contact with the voters than at his morning press conferences, when he has sometimes appeared inhibited by the more senior party figures who have come to help him.

A surprise if Alliance won

No candidate has been chewed up this time in the way that so often happens at by-elections.

I doubt, however, if it has ever been possible for the Conservatives to win this contest, despite Mr Carrington's bravado yesterday in claiming that their canvassing returns showed him ahead. It would also be surprising now if the Alliance were to grab the seat.

There are a number of voters who are considering switching to the Alliance. That is evident on the doorstep. But for enough of them to do so there would surely have to be a greater sense of momentum, which is hard to generate in a constituency with few typical Alliance voters.

The concept of a typical Alliance voter is a relatively new one. It used to be the Social Democrats and Liberals was spread so thinly not only geographically but across the social classes that they would always have difficulty in concentrating their votes sufficiently to win many seats.

But now it is clear that it is the sociologically semi-detached who are particularly likely to vote for the Alliance. I am tempted to say the suburban semi-detached because it is most likely to find those who are upwardly mobile and who are neither moneyed nor think of themselves as members of the working class.

High expectations without the pay

These are the people who are worried about their mortgages and rail fares, who are especially disturbed by conditions in state schools but cannot afford private ones and who fear that the health service is being run down without being able to pay for private medicine. They have higher expectations without being able to pay for them personally.

Such people do not, however, live only in the suburbs. The Brecon and Radnor by-election showed that there are many of them in rural areas. Middle-rank managers and professional people, striving to make it, are quite numerous in Britain these days.

But there are not many of the upwardly mobile in Fulham. Most people there seem either to have arrived or not to be on the move.

The Fulham result will therefore tell us only a limited amount about the state of British politics today. If Labour gains its expected victory that is bound to be good for party morale and for Mr Kinnock's personal authority.

But to get a fuller picture we shall have to wait for the other two by-elections that are pending in West Derbyshire and in Ryedale, and then to assess all three results together. A single snapshot from Fulham cannot illumine the whole scene.

By-election survey, page 16

Polytechnic cutbacks denied

COMMONS

The report on the front page of *The Times* about a decided cut in polytechnic places was rubbish, Mr Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said to Conservative cheers during questions in the Commons.

Mr Keith Hampson (Leeds North West, C) asked if Sir Keith would initiate a move to end binary provision in higher education which led to overlapping and duplication.

Many of us (he said) find it strange that polytechnics have increased the proportion of young people places to them for education, yet they are having to face massive cuts in places.

Sir Keith added that there was no need to reorganize the Department of Education and Science in the light of the decision about binary or non-binary provision in higher education.

Later Mrs Renee Short (Wolverhampton North East, Lab) said: The DES is that resources on teaching and re-

search in science are inadequate. It is nonsense that we should now in industrial areas of the country be closing science departments in polytechnics.

What is he going to do about that? Should we not have a Minister for Science?

Mr George Walden, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science: The Secretary of State described earlier the so-called cuts in polytechnics as rubbish. I do not think I can do better than that. It would be wrong for her to lend her name to what is a campaign of alarmism about so-called cuts in polytechnics.

I am the chairman of the National Advisory Body which has made a number of recommendations for such cuts. Neither has the Secretary of State.

He will be considering in the normal way at the end of this year in the present round the amount of money available for expenditure in the public sector on higher education.

Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire, C): In Cambridge there are very definite cuts in polytechnics in 1986-87 will be 172,000 - an increase

of 43 per cent over the number in 1979. They remained static under the Labour Government.

Regarding more scientific courses in universities and polytechnics, this Government has found it necessary to make a conjunction with industry, to get the courses industry requires. Industry has contributed another £24 million towards these courses.

Mr Kinnock: If the situation is as she describes, why does her own national advisory board say that the cuts in polytechnics are rubbish? They cannot make any further cuts without a diminution of quality of provision in all of the fields she mentions?

Will she heed the words of her own Green Paper on higher education last year which acknowledged if present trends continue we shall fall further behind our competitors in the engineering and technological subjects?

Mrs Thatcher: I saw Mr Kinnock in his place when I heard my colleague, the chairman of the national advisory board, utterly repudiate that report.

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Opposition fails to delay dockyard Bill

The report stage of the Dockyard Services Bill, which privatizes dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth, was delayed when Labour and Alliance MPs protested that important documents vital to the debate were made available too late for proper consideration.

The forced division on the exclusion of "strangers" which was rejected by 259 votes to 110 - majority, 149. A further division on a motion to adjourn the debate was rejected by 239 votes to 169 - Government majority 70.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said latest costings showed the annual surplus to the Exchequer arising from the effects of implementing the Bill would be £21 million over each of the next five years of commercial management. After that, it was expected to be £28 million.

An Opposition proposal requiring the Government to set out savings and losses was rejected by 244 votes to 170 - Government majority 34.

Bill on latent damage intact

HOUSE OF LORDS

A proposal to amend the Latent Damage Bill would cause massive uncertainty to the construction industry, a peer warned the House of Lords during the committee stage of the Bill.

The Bill, based on a report of the Law Reform Committee, amends the law of limitation of actions in negligence cases involving latent damage other than personal injury.

Lord Sillkin of Dwligh (Lab) moved an amendment, subsequently withdrawn, to give courts the discretion to extend the 15 years long stop period specified in the Bill.

He said there had been general agreement that a person who suffered damage through another person's wrong ought not to be prevented from obtaining compensation simply as a result of the lapse of time, particularly in circumstances in which he might be unaware of his rights.

The best way to give effect to

that was to provide the court with a limited degree of discretion in the case of personal injury cases.

Lord Denning (Ind), supporting the proposal, said they were dealing with latent damage, for example, bad foundations. The damage might not appear until 15 years afterwards. The 15 years provided in the Bill ought to be extended in special cases. Judicial discretion would be wise in such cases.

Lord Howe of Troon (Lab), referring to the effect on the construction industry, said it would result in massive uncertainty and place an unreasonable burden on the industry.

Lord Scarman (Ind), chairman of the committee which produced the report, said the committee considered that the value of the long stop provision would be lost if there was a judicial discretion to extend it.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said the amendment would destroy the balance of the report.

The committee stage was concluded.

Figures being checked

TENDERS

The Prime Minister congratulated the management of the Swan Hunter shipyard on their strenuous and successful efforts to see that the frigate HMS Coventry was launched on time, while replying to Mr Richard Holt (Langough, C)

With reference to the order for two naval advance oil replenishment vessels (AORs) being sought by both Swan Hunter and Harland and Wolff, Mrs Thatcher said: Further inquiries are being made to ensure the figures about competition are fair because that is vital to both shipyards.

Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from 9th April, 1986 its Base Rate will be decreased from 11.50% per annum to 11.00% per annum



Vasari's notes add to drawing's value

Sale room

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The back, however, was easier to identify. It is a chronological chart of the dates that artists died. There are Tuscan and north Italian artists listed. Vasari's *Lives of the Most Excellent Architects, Painters and Sculptors* was first published in 1550.

The highest price in the sale, £41,040, was paid for a drawing that had come into Christie's as an unidentified work of little value. It is an oval oil sketch on paper laid down on canvas depicting the marriage celebrations of a patrician couple attended by courtiers and musicians.

Christie's had recognized

the hand of Nicolo dell'Abate, a Modenese painter who worked on the decoration of the Château de Fontainebleau in the 1550s and is considered one of the founders of the Fontainebleau school.

Treating its own identification with due caution, Christie's had published a pre-sale estimate of only £5,000 to £8,000. It was bought by Colnaghi's, the Bond Street dealers.

A red and white chalk drawing of the head of a boy by Tiepolo, a slight drawing of a figure, also secured £41,040 (estimate £15,000 to £25,000).

The sale totalled £321,834 with 6 per cent left unsold.

Sotheby's monthly Conduit Street sale on Monday night of modestly priced pictures and furnishings suitable for private homes secured a total of £149,330 with 23 per cent unsold.

More than 1,000 people had viewed the sale on Sunday and it required two sale rooms to accommodate hopeful bidders on the night.

Private purchases among the paintings included a watercolour of All Saints Church, Ramsall, Suffolk, by Henry Galt, £220 (estimate £250 to £350).

Librarian for Bodleian

Mr David G. Vaisey, Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, has been appointed the new Bodley's Librarian. He succeeds Mr John Jolliffe, who died in March last year.

Mr Vaisey, aged 51, who read history at Exeter College, where he is now a professional fellow, went to the Bodleian in 1959 as a trainee archivist. He

then spent three years with Staffordshire County Council, returning to the Bodleian in 1963 as a graduate assistant.

In 1966 he was made Deputy Keeper of Oxford University Archives, and Keeper of Western Manuscripts in 1976.

Mr Julian Roberts, Keeper of Printed Books, who had been acting librarian, becomes deputy librarian.

Tory candidate chosen

Mr Neil Balfour, a former Euro-MP, will stand for the Conservatives in the Ryedale by-election in North Yorkshire.

Mr Balfour, aged 41, is a merchant banker, who lives near Ripon, North Yorkshire. By-election is expected on May 8.

Mrs Elizabeth Shields, a teacher, second in the 1983

Hungarian held to chess draw

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The Hungarian player Csaba Horvath, aged 17, retained his lead in round six of the Cakhnam School International Junior Tournament, Leicestershire, yesterday by drawing a well-fought game with Neil McDonald.

The draw gave McDonald, aged 19, of England, 4½ points. If he gets 1½ points from the last three rounds he will acquire his International Master title.

The Polish player, Robert Kuczyński, is the only other player with 4½ points.

Stuart Conquest, James Howell and Angus Dunnington, all of England, have 4 points, as do M Condé of Scotland, V Anand of India, and Eduardo Rojas, of Chile.

The English International Woman's Master, Susan Walker, drew her round six game with Luis Galego, of Portugal, to give her 3 points.

Walker needs only 1½ points from the remaining three games to secure her Woman's International Grand Master norm.



New-age trains signal BR's plan to revive neglected lines

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Rail plans to answer its critics with a new generation of high speed cross-country trains on routes largely abandoned since the war.

The "Super-Sprinter" train will offer inter-city-type services in the late 1980s and 1990s between towns such as Bristol and Salisbury, Liverpool and Scarborough, Cardiff and Brighton, Cambridge and Manchester, Chester and Grantham, Leominster and York.

Routes such as those in recent years have had slow stopping services or none at all. British Rail plans to revive them with a type of train not used before on British Rail routes.

The Super-Sprinter will provide the speed and comfort of inter-city at much lower cost. Mr John Edmonds, head of British Rail's provincial services, said in Shrewsbury yesterday.

"They will enable us to connect towns and cities away from London which are now uneconomic, and bring us back into cross-country travel in a big way."

Representing more than half British Rail's route network, stations and subsidy — now more than £500 million a year — the provincial sector has been looked on as the lame duck of the railways, with closure or bus substitution as the likely fate of many routes.

But, according to Mr Edmonds, there are no present plans for substituting buses for trains and improvements had been made possible by annual savings of £100 million since 1983 as a result of smaller, more advanced trains, automatic level crossings, radio signalling and unmanned stations.

Other major developments in the next 12 months include: Eastern Region: New timetables in May in the North-east and 50 new trains replacing 84 old ones.

Western Region: Continued development of the South Wales valley lines and the introduction of new trains.

Midland Region: New timetables with faster trains from Wales to the Midlands.

ScotRail: Electrification of the Glasgow-Ayr route in September and its extension to Largs next year.



Five women barristers were sworn in as Queen's Counsel by the Lord Chancellor at the House of Lords yesterday. They are, from left: Miss Anita Mary Ryan, Miss Mary Howarth Arden, Mrs Janet Hilary Smith, Mrs Rosalyn Higgins and Mrs Barbara Jean Lyon Mills.

Beatle gift 'belongs to son'

A Red Indian head-dress given by John Lennon to his son Julian about ten years ago was still rightfully the property of the Lennon family, a court ruled yesterday.

Magistrates at Warrington, Cheshire, decided that the 6ft head-dress should be returned to Julian Lennon, aged 23. Mrs Cynthia Lennon, former wife of John, and Mrs Lynn Buckley, of Fieldfare Close, Oakwood, Warrington, had contested ownership.

In a civil action under the

Police Property Act, magistrates were asked to decide on ownership. Mrs Lennon alleged that it had been stolen from her former home in Ruthin, North Wales, in 1978.

The court was told that in 1978 Mrs Buckley was presented with the head-dress by her former husband, Jeremiah McGarry, who said that he had been given it by Mrs Lennon.

Recently Mrs Buckley, and her husband Gary, decided to offer it for sale and received an

offer of £4,500 from a collector of Beatles memorabilia in America. He wanted proof that it had belonged to the late John Lennon, so Mr Buckley contacted Mrs Lennon.

The next day Mrs Lennon complained that the head-dress had been stolen. The police took possession of the head-dress.

Mrs Lennon told the court that it was only when Mr Buckley phoned to inquire about its authenticity that she realized it was missing.

Barrister scores legal hat trick

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A barrister yesterday completed a hat trick when he became a Queen's Counsel at the Bar of England and Wales. Mr Richard Ferguson is already SC — senior counsel — at the Bar of the Republic of Ireland and QC at the Northern Ireland Bar and is believed to be the only barrister to take silk at all three bars.

Mr Ferguson, who moved to London three years ago from Northern Ireland and works at the criminal bar, was at the centre of controversy last year when he was not included among the list of QCs appointed that year.

Hampton Court fire inquiry is set up

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, has set up an inquiry after the fire at Hampton Court Palace on Easter Monday.

The inquiry — by Sir John Garrick, a former Civil Servant — is to look at how the department's emergency response arrangements worked and what lessons might be learnt for the future. Mr Baker said in a Commons written reply.

He said that Sir John would pay particular attention to maintenance, fire precautions, and the action taken when the fire was discovered.

Before retiring from the Civil Service in 1981, Sir John was for three years Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Environment.

Minky set for life of luxury

Minky the cat has been guaranteed a life of luxury after his owner, Mrs Mary Rossi, left him £10,000 in her will.

Mrs Rossi, of The Drive, Golders Green, north-west London, who died last October, also left £2,000 to the RSPCA. Her estate was valued at £222,844 gross, £219,536 net.

Woman jockey inquest

By a Staff Reporter

An inquest into the death of Britain's first woman flat racer, Mrs Sue Horton, opened yesterday after she was found dead in her car.

Her husband, Mr David Horton, aged 48, of Winterbourne Bassett, near Swindon, Wiltshire, gave evidence of identification to Mr John Elgar, the Wiltshire Coroner, at a brief hearing in Devizes.

The inquest was adjourned until April 17.

Mr Horton found his wife, aged 43, in the garage of her bungalow home at Honeystone, Lisleton, Devizes, Wiltshire, on Saturday when he returned from a day out with their son David. The couple were separated.

Bomb case men start jail fast

Two men accused in connection with the planting of a bomb at Chelsea Barracks, south-west London, last November have started a hunger strike in Wormwood Scrubs prison.

Peter O'Loughlin and Patrick McLaughlin, both aged 26, from Londonderry, stopped eating on Friday. They are protesting at being isolated from other prisoners and say they are locked in their cells for 23 hours a day.

They are awaiting trial at the Central Criminal Court accused of conspiring with others to cause an explosion "likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property".

Directors could get jail for accounts in Welsh

By Tim Jones

Five company directors could face prison sentences because of their refusal to submit accounts in the English language to Companies House in Cardiff.

Notice of dissolution has been posted in the *London Gazette* against Sain (Recordiau) Cys, the Gwynedd-based company which specializes in producing Welsh language pop and ballad records.

But it is likely that individual High Court summonses will be issued against the directors who could then face big fines or terms of imprisonment.

Sain, founded in 1972, has consistently refused to comply with the Companies Act which states that, although companies trading in Wales can submit accounts in Welsh they must be accompanied by an English language translation.

Welsh Nationalist MPs intend to raise the matter in the Commons.

Mr Dafydd Williams, general secretary of Plaid Cymru, said: "It cannot be right for a public organization based in the capital city of Wales to discriminate in this way against a Welsh company."

"This high-handed colonial attitude underlines the need for a new Welsh Language Act."

Mr Dafydd Iwan, chairman of Sain, is also vice-president of Plaid Cymru and his records advocating independence and passive resistance sell thousands of copies.

Mr Owen Huws, one of the directors, said yesterday: "We have no intention of complying with the Act. It seems that we are allowed to use our language on an everyday basis, but for anything important we are forced to use English."

Companies House said the case was the first of its kind. "We shall explain the law to the directors and hope they comply. We are seeking compliance and not retribution," he said.

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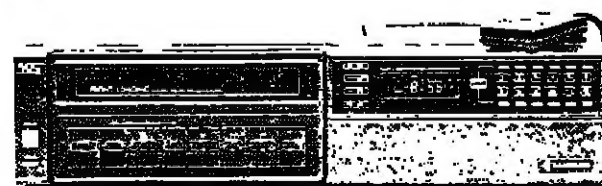
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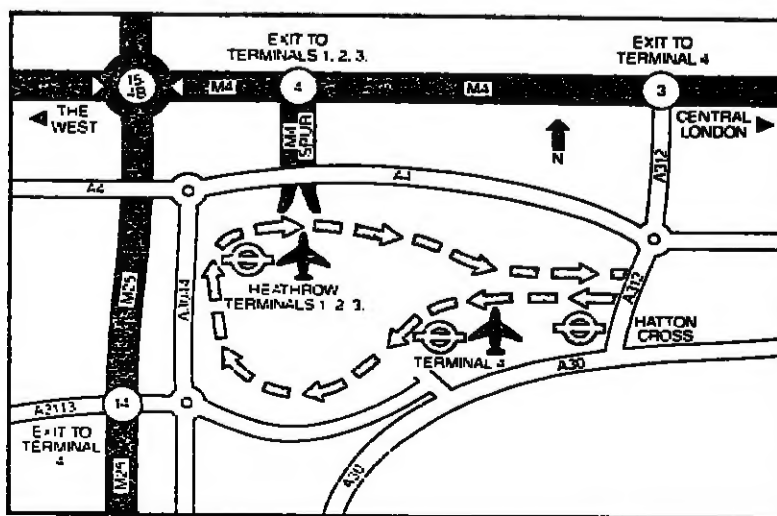
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Injured shoppers buried in rubble of Lebanon supermarket after explosion

Ten die as car bomb signals brutal battle for heartland

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The brutal struggle between pro- and anti-Syrian Christian militias for control of Lebanon erupted again yesterday when a car loaded with 165lb of explosives blew up 50 yards from a Phalangist Party office in the port of Jounieh, killing at least 10 people and wounding another 110.

As usual, most of the dead had played no role in the Lebanese war; many of them were civilian bank workers, whose charred bodies were dragged from their offices in the main square of the flourishing Christian city. Red Cross workers found dozens of wounded shoppers buried in the rubble of a supermarket.

There had been no warning of the explosion, although car bombings in east Beirut have become commonplace since Phalangist militia leaders — silently supported by President Amin Gemayel — refused to accept a Syrian peace plan for the country, and evicted the main pro-Syrian Christian commander, Elie Hobeika, from the capital in a series of savage street battles in January.

Hobeika — whose previous exploits are widely believed to include the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatila camps in 1982 — usually languishes in his home village in the mountains above Zahle, but was yesterday holding a series of talks in Damascus with Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, and Nabih Berri, the head of the Shia Muslim Amal movement.

Syria's enthusiastic support for him — and its hatred of the Phalangists — has not wavered since the January fighting. It was therefore not surprising that many Christians yesterday

day suspected that Hobeika and the Syrians were behind the bombing in Jounieh.

The inhabitants of Jounieh, which is 13 miles north of Beirut, have generally been spared the slaughter visited upon most other communities in Lebanon in the past ten years. It is also the centre of one of the Phalangist Party's strongest units in Lebanon, controlled by Samir Geagea, the pro-Israeli Christian militia commander, who overthrew Hobeika's rule almost three months ago.

Coincidentally, Druze and Sunni Muslim gunmen in the Chouf Hills south of Beirut yesterday managed to oust the blooded at Jounieh in a vicious political dispute within Mr Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party.

Sunnis and Druze in the region both belong to the PSP, but Sunni villagers of Basba had for 15 days been objecting to the political control exercised over them by the Druze of the neighbouring village of Masraat Chouf.

After two Druze were assassinated on Monday night, Druze gunmen yesterday stormed into Basba and murdered 12 people, most of them members of the Sunni Akoum family.

On the edge of the Israeli occupation zone in southern Lebanon, a suicide bomber yesterday drove his car into a checkpoint manned by members of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army militia in the village of Kawkaba, wounding three of them and three civilians, according to Beirut radio reports.

The driver, whose identity was not known, died in the explosion, the first suicide bombing attack in the south this year.

Cabinet crisis deferred by Israeli parties

Jerusalem — Israel's Cabinet crisis went on to the back burner yesterday as the tension shifted to the opening of the Labour Party convention here last night (David Bernstein writes).

Nevertheless, the crisis was expected to dominate the convention which, even before the crisis erupted, had been expected to devote considerable time to mounting demands for a reappraisal of the party's rotation agreement with Likud.

Both Labour and the Likud have agreed to take the edge off the crisis by deferring the showdown between the Labour Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and his Likud Finance Minister, Mr Yitzhak Modai, until Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting.

Howe warned of N Korean military threat

The Foreign Minister of South Korea, Mr Lee Won Kyung, is thought to have warned Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, of his country's fears over a military threat posed by North Korea (Our Diplomatic Staff write).

Mr Lee is accompanying President Chun Doo Hwan on the first visit by a South Korean head of state to Europe. Yesterday the President had lunch with the Queen at Windsor and last night was having dinner at 10 Downing Street. At yesterday's meeting between Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lee there is thought to have been a general discussion about the situation in Korea. South Korea is concerned at the build-up of North Korean forces close to the border.



The crater caused by the car bomb blast in Jounieh which killed at least 10 people.

Waldheim war file revealed

From Frank Johnson Vienna

A courier from the Austrian Mission to the United Nations was yesterday flying here with a file, held by the UN for nearly 40 years, which covers Dr Kurt Waldheim's service in the Balkans during the Second World War.

Herr Rudolf Kirschschläger, whom Dr Waldheim is campaigning to succeed in the presidential election of May 4, has announced that he will rule on whether it implicates Dr Waldheim in war crimes.

The file is part of an immense collection of documents gathered by the Allies. Some of them formed part of the prosecution case for war crimes. But that does not mean every name in them denotes a war criminal.

The United States has privately instructed embassies in Western Europe to tell its allies that it has hard evidence linking Libya with Saturday's bomb atrocity in a West Berlin discotheque.

It hopes, through quiet diplomatic means, to use the evidence to coax Europe towards co-ordinated action against Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

Chilean doctors in budget cuts strike

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Chilean doctors began a two-day strike yesterday to demand the resignation of the Health Minister, Dr Winston Chinchón, the repeal of new health legislation and the reinstatement of Dr Ricardo Vaca, president of their Santiago union branch, sacked for his role in a December work stoppage.

The doctors are especially upset by conditions in clinics and hospitals where budgets have been severely reduced, in line with the Government's philosophy that education and social services should pay for themselves.

"The question is whether it's less ethical to stop work to demand Chileans' right to health, or to go to hospitals and offices where there are

inadequate resources, and put on a show as if nothing unusual were happening," said Dr Haydee Lopez, the general secretary of the College of Physicians.

"We are more and more aware that we cannot expect solutions to our demands without a democratic change in our country," he said. Meanwhile, the national committee of bishops has published a statement calling for "serious revision" of the 1980 constitution adopted by the military regime.

It is the first time they have directly criticized the regime's plan for a gradual return to a "protected" democracy. They also predicted that this year would be "a time of difficult and painful confrontations".

US tells allies of Libya link with Berlin attack

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States has privately instructed embassies in Western Europe to tell its allies that it has hard evidence linking Libya with Saturday's bomb atrocity in a West Berlin discotheque.

It hopes, through quiet diplomatic means, to use the evidence to coax Europe towards co-ordinated action against Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

American officials believe that there are tentative signs that Western Europe is finally responding to efforts to broaden the dispute with Libya beyond its US-Libya dimension.

A senior official, without giving details, said investigators had gathered evidence showing that Libyan agents had operated through the Libyan People's Bureau, or embassy, in East Berlin. It is not clear if the US has linked other foreigners with the blast.

Details will be given privately to the US allies.

The Reagan Administration is upset that news of the evidence, much of which apparently came from intercepted Libyan messages, was revealed in an American television interview given in Bonn by Mr Richard Burt, the US Ambassador to West Germany. It is wary of being seen pressurizing its allies too much in public to act against Libya.

Mr Burt said there was "very clear evidence" of Libyan involvement, adding that during the week before the explosion the US had told the Soviet Union and East Germany that "we were concerned about the possibility of an attack coming from the Libyan People's Bureau".

The US believes that if West Germany does move against Libya, it might provide the incentive for other Western European governments to follow suit.

● BONN: The US has asked West Germany to impose economic and political sanctions on Libya after claiming Libyan involvement in the discotheque bomb attack, in which two people died (A Correspondent writes).

News agency reports here, quoting West German government sources, said Washington had presented documentary evidence to Bonn alleging Libyan involvement in the blast.

Contadora talks break up with recriminations

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Despite a widespread conviction that the dangers are increasing of a regional war in Central America, peace talks in Panama have broken up amid recriminations and deep divisions between those in the US camp and the one country outside it, Nicaragua.

The foreign ministers of the eight most powerful Latin American nations were unable to persuade their counterparts from conflict-torn Central America to sign a regional peace treaty — a goal sought for more than three years by the Contadora group.

The representatives of the US allies of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica said the intransigence of left-wing Nicaragua was the only obstacle to an agreement.

Father Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, said it would be wrong to conclude that Contadora had failed. But he insisted his country could not commit itself to any peace treaty while

Washington continued to arm Contra rebels.

"We will not sign anything, we won't hand in one rifle, we will not disarm while the US abundance and shameless assistance to the counter-revolutionaries persists," Father D'Escoto said.

It had been hoped a joint statement would be issued at the end of the meeting by all 13 nations, but the Central Americans could not agree on a common draft. This left the Contadora group of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, and its so-called support group of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, to pen yet another expression of alarm at the threats besetting Central America and to warn against an increase in foreign support for rebel forces in the region.

A June 6 deadline was set by the two pressure groups for the signing of a treaty. However, such a deadline has been set before, been forgotten and talks have been resumed.

Honduras denies plea for Washington arms

Tegucigalpa (UPI) — President José Azcona Hoyo of Honduras said his government did not ask Washington for \$20 million (about £13.5 million) in military aid to fend off an alleged Nicaraguan Army invasion on its border.

President Reagan, citing the seriousness of aggression from a "communist dictatorship," sent \$20 million in emergency military aid to Señor Azcona saying the money was requested to repel the attack.

"The Government of President José Azcona Hoyo did not request military aid from the US Government as has been much speculated in the national and international press," a presidential palace statement said. "It is completely false."

It said the only request made to Washington was "for the use of air transport to rapidly move Honduras troops to the sectors where the Sandinista Popular Army crossed over."

The announcement of an "invasion" of Honduras by troops from leftist-ruled Nicaragua came from Washington on March 24. The incursion of some 1,500 Nicaraguan troops across the poorly marked border

in pursuit of US-backed Contra rebels came on the eve of a Senate vote on President Reagan's \$100 million aid package for the rebels.

A day later, the Government of Honduras, a staunch US ally, which at first vigorously denied the reports, said the Sandinista had "crossed into" western Olancho province. Shortly thereafter, Señor Azcona left for a Caribbean beach holiday.

There was much conjecture among foreign diplomats that Washington exaggerated the Nicaraguan border raid to try to sway the Senate to vote in favor of Reagan's Contra aid proposal.

Also in the presidential statement, Señor Azcona denounced statements by President Daniel Ortega, of Nicaragua, who said Sandinista troops did not violate the border but rather entered a "no-man's land" where Contra rebels have bases.

"On the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, there does not exist nor can there exist a so-called 'no-man's land' because the border was clearly marked for perpetuity by the Spanish King on December 23, 1906," the statement said.

Phosphor burns treated in Kabul

Islamabad (Reuters) — Kabul hospitals are treating many cases of phosphorus burns, suggesting Soviet and Afghan forces are using the searing chemical as a weapon in Afghanistan, Western diplomats said.

Reports from the Afghan capital show that one man has died of burns, possibly from a phosphorus bomb. Such burns had not been previously reported from Afghanistan.

Economist defects

Bonn (Reuters) — A leading East German economist has defected to West Germany after an official trip to Austria, Bonn government sources said.

They named him as Mr Harry Maier, aged 52, from the East German Academy of Sciences in East Berlin.

Curbs eased

Bonn (Reuters) — East Germany is easing restrictions on West-bound travellers in a move that could be tied to plans by the Communist leader, Mr Erich Honecker, to pay a long-awaited visit to West Germany later this year.

Crossing crash

Berlin (AP) — A freight train rammed into a commuter bus on an East German railway crossing in thick fog near Lauchhammer, killing eight bus passengers.

Queen's job

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Queen Margrethe of Denmark has started work as a costume designer for a television version of a Hans Christian Andersen story.

Pink protest

Barcelona (Reuters) — Catalan radicals sprayed pink paint on the US Navy frigate Capodanno here.

Pacific peril

Manila (Reuters) — A French-owned luxury yacht was hijacked by pirates off the southern Philippines and its crew of four set adrift in a rubber raft. They were later picked up.

Super speedy

Washington (Reuters) — US firms have won contracts worth \$89.5 million (£60 million) for research into an aircraft that would fly in space and take two hours from New York to Tokyo.

Muldoon up

Wellington (Reuters) — The former New Zealand Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, has been rehabilitated by his National Party, now in opposition, with promotion to foreign affairs spokesman.

Olga's return

Moscow (Reuters) — Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter who defected to the West and then came back to the Soviet Union, has confirmed that her daughter Olga would be returning to school in England soon.

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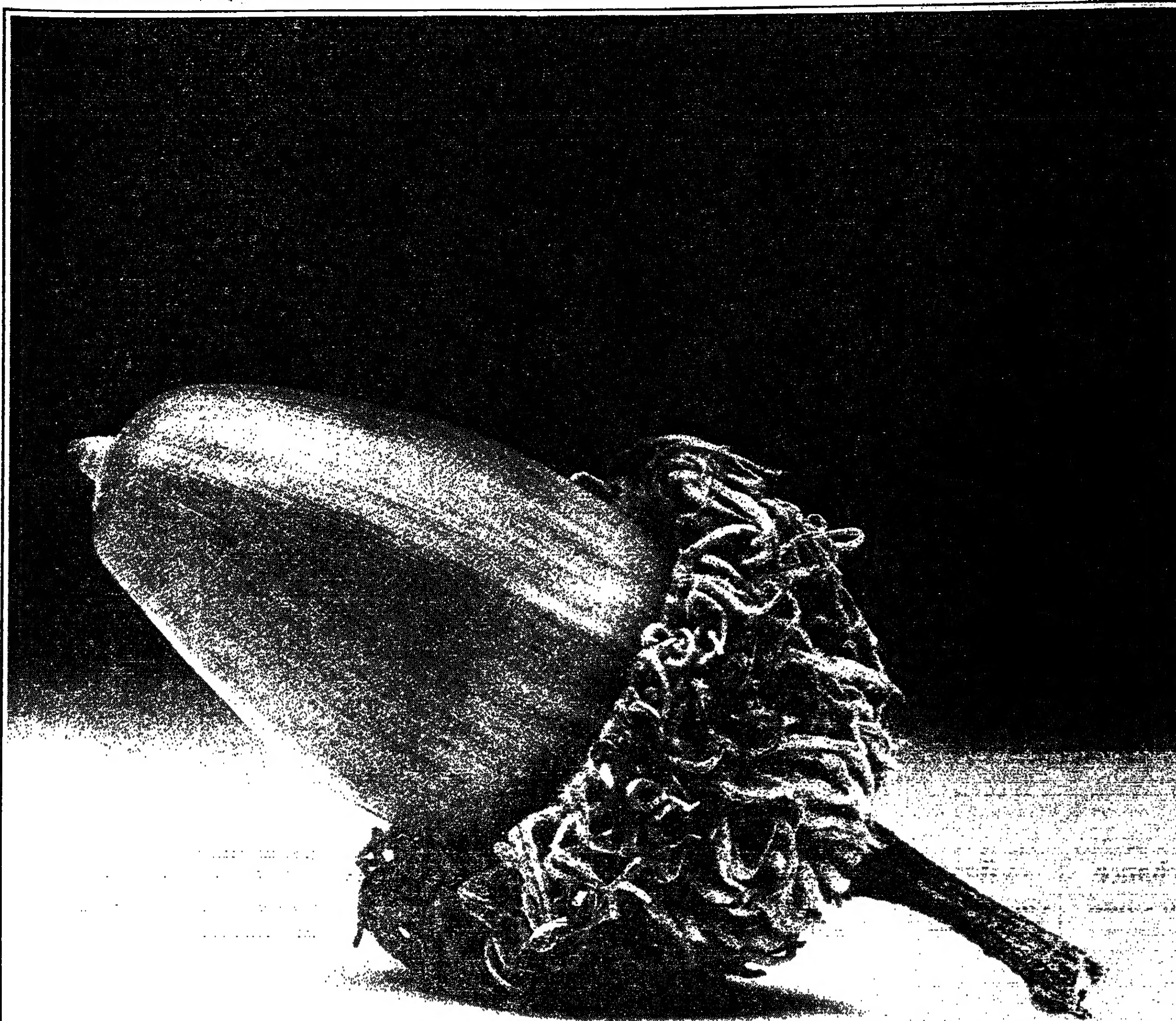
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Puzzle of link to Civil War incident

Spanish right suspected of hatching plot for anniversary

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's principal intelligence agency, run by the armed forces, is investigating alleged efforts by extreme right-wingers to incite plotting against the Socialist Government in connection with the fiftieth anniversary in July of the outbreak of the Civil War.

Defence Ministry sources yesterday confirmed a report on the investigation in *Cambio 16*, the Madrid news weekly, though they denied the incidents had reached coup plot proportions.

"All that has been revealed is how easy it is to print clandestine propaganda sheets and then send them to some of the military," a Ministry spokesman said.

According to *Cambio 16*, agents of the Centre for Defence Intelligence have been investigating two former officers serving prison sentences, who took part in extreme right-wing coup attempts in 1981 and 1982, as possible authors of the sheets.

These claimed that the Socialists are engaged in a campaign coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary "to eliminate the last remains of the

Franco legacy and return Spain to the spirit of April 1931". This was when Spain became a republic after the abdication of King Alfonso XIII, the present King's grandfather.

The sheets also claimed that the Government is secretly negotiating the independence of Spain's Basque region with ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

The magazine said five different messages had been detected, beginning last Christmas. They were sent to generals, admirals and other service chiefs, especially in the Madrid, Seville, Valencia and Valladolid military regions. They were all signed with the pseudonym "The Director", recalling the procedure General Mola, one of the conspirators with General Franco, used in his "secret instructions" to the rebels before the 1936 uprising against the republic.

Others suspected, the weekly added, included a senior officer with the Brunete armoured division outside the capital, as well as several right-wing civilians.

Union deal saves fiesta bullfights

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Fiesta Nacional can go ahead this season thanks to a decision by the bullfighters' union to suspend its threatened strike over pensions.

Its grievances, however, have not been resolved. Anxious about their earnings for the coming season, the bullfighters and their teams accepted a promise from government negotiators to solve pension problems.

It is the teams of Picadors and Banderilleros, who are recruited by the bullfighters and do not earn big money, who are most worried.

The government, faced with a deficit of more than £540 million in the country's social security system, wants to incorporate the bullfighters' special pension scheme into the national insurance plan.

It and the bullfighters' union have now given themselves until the end of the year to compromise.

Under the previous scheme dating from the Franco era, bullfighters only had to contribute for 10 years in order to qualify for a pension. The government now wants a 35-year contribution.



Members of the international anti-nuclear organization Greenpeace, flying their flag on the Nevada desert test site in the United States at the weekend. Six members of the group, which wanted to prevent a test yesterday, were arrested on the range on Monday.

Pretoria reins in whites who fan flames of race war

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) has served warning that white right-wing extremists who take "the law into their own hands" are playing into the hands of revolutionaries by fanning the flames of a full-scale racial conflict which whites would not survive.

The warning, the most open official expression of concern to date about the activities of right-wing groups, is contained in a front-page article in the latest issue of *Nationalist*, the NP's official newspaper.

The article referred to a number of recent incidents in which whites have cruised the streets in cars taking pot shots at black pedestrians, or made unprovoked assaults on blacks. It also criticized the activities of extreme right-wing political parties and organizations.

Such behaviour, the paper said, served the aim of leaving revolutionaries who "want white fears to turn to rage so that peaceful co-existence and co-operation between South Africa's population groups becomes impossible".

Emotions had to be calmed, and people had to understand

what the Government was doing, the paper went on. This was why a federal congress of the NP was to be held in Durban on August 12 and 13. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Broderbond, Professor J P de Lange, yesterday denied reports that the semi-secret society of the Afrikaner elite was seeking talks with the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

"A third party did ask us whether we would be interested, and we said we were not interested", Professor de Lange told *The Times*. "We regard the ANC as a terrorist organization, and it is not true that we have put out any feelers".

An official in the ANC's information department in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, said that the ANC had also been approached by an unnamed third party, and asked what its reaction would be if the Broderbond requested talks.

"Our answer was that we do not deal with intermediaries, but that if the Broderbond approached us directly with such a request, the National Executive would consider it", Mr Tom Sebina, the assistant information officer, said.

Nato secrets charge

Athens - A young Greek naval lieutenant who is being court-martialled in Piraeus on charges of espionage, was alleged by prosecution witnesses yesterday to have given Nato weapons systems secrets to the Soviet Union (Mario Modiano writes).

Lieutenant Vassilis Serepisios, aged 35, was arrested last summer on information supplied by Mr Sergei Bokhan, a Soviet diplomat in Athens who defected to the United States in May last year. He was later identified as the deputy director of the Soviet

military intelligence (GRU) in Greece.

General George Politis, chief of the Greek central intelligence service (KYP), who interrogated Mr Bokhan in Washington, said that Mr Serepisios had been passing intelligence to the Russians for eight years.

Lieutenant Colonel Dimitris Karatzanis of KYP, another witness, told the court that the defendant had given his Soviet contacts Nato's secret manuals for the Harpoon missile as well as the anti-aircraft Sea Sparrow system.

UN seizes chance in Chad

By a Staff Reporter

Eighteen years of civil war and 14 years of continuous drought have left Chad, the poorest country in the world, ravaged. But last year that cycle was broken with rains and this year the country has not requested emergency aid. Unicef has seized the window of opportunity and is to push ahead with a \$100 million (\$600,000) development programme which it hopes will take Chad and 15 other countries in Africa out of their downward spiral.

The programme for Chad will cost an estimated \$30 million. It includes a vaccination programme for children under four years. Already a 10-day vaccination campaign in Ndjamena has been heralded a great success by the United representative in Chad, Mr Ulf Kristoffersson. He said in London yesterday that around 70 per cent of Ndjamena's children had been covered, which would save about 1,500 from death or crippling disease.

Museveni to fight corruption

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Museveni, of Uganda, is launching a major operation against widespread corruption in government and semi-government services which has existed for many years as a result of the economic breakdown which began when General Idi Amin took power in 1971.

It was announced in Kampala that a commission of inquiry would soon be set up to look into the activities of ministers and heads of state-owned bodies. In response to what the government said was a public outcry, the commission will investigate financial scandals and abuse of office. Members of the public will be invited to give evidence.

General Museveni has been bitterly critical of the way corruption, which reached alarming levels under General Amin in the 1970s, had been allowed to continue under the rule of General Milton Obote, who was ousted last July by a section of his own Army.

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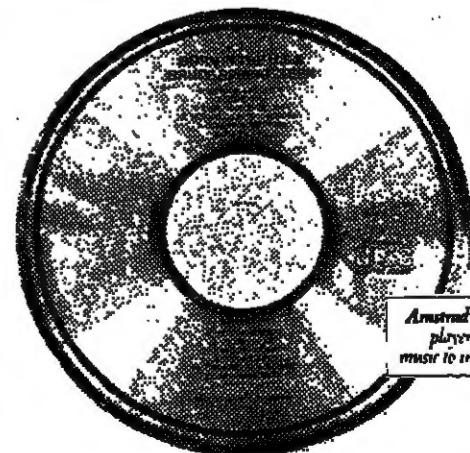
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Nakasone seeks better Japanese life-style and more spending power

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, has announced measures aimed at putting more spending money in the pockets of his hard-working citizens and perking up their life-style.

His programme is designed to try to buy the country's way out of its trade problems with the West by spending more at home on the good things of life, such as better housing and cheaper imported beef. He hopes to divert some of the country's energies from the export drive.

"I hope that each one of my fellow Japanese people will pause and reflect upon your own life-style and will give some thought to achieving an enhanced pattern of consumption," he said.

"In the background of these large (trade) surpluses lie economic structural factors seen in the Japanese economy such as being export-oriented. Therefore, we should make a switchover in our traditional way of thinking and tackle structural adjustment of the Japanese economy, thereby transforming it into an internationally harmonious one.

"It is impossible for Japan alone to continue to be an island of solitary prosperity,

with a large current account imbalance, depending on exports. It is no exaggeration to say that our success in achieving the transformation will be essential in determining Japan's future....

"I intend to endeavour to deploy the vitality of the Japanese economy further to improve the quality of the nation's living standards." In a message to the rest of the world, he said: "Japan is now at an historic turning point in its relations with the international economic community. Our continued large current account imbalance is a matter of serious concern not only for the management of our own economy but also for the harmonious development of the world economy."

But, like so many similar pronouncements in the past—including a report issued on Monday from a committee chaired by Mr Haruo Maekawa, the former head of the Bank of Japan—the new announcement is long on generalizations and short on specifics. Nor is it easy to see how some of the proposals would actually lead to real change, especially as these "comprehensive economic measures" are for the short

term rather than the medium to long term of the Maekawa Report.

In one case at least the latest economic package actually contradicts suggestions made by Mr Maekawa's experts. They proposed that Japan's uneconomic coal industry be allowed to die. Yesterday's statement approves the continuation of government payments to mining industries in difficulty.

The new measures were approved by a meeting of the Ministerial Conference for Economic Measures yesterday, which was also given the Maekawa Report. The meeting did not accept the report, but there will be some unspecified follow-up measures.

The key points centre on passing on to the public some of the benefits of the greater purchasing power of the yen through cheaper oil and gas; bringing forward public works projects by signing contracts in the first half of the year; promoting housing construction by making housing loans cheaper and opening up more areas for development. Support prices for beef, pork and butter are to be reduced.

Kenneth Fleet, page 21

Bangkok bomb hits US-Thai meeting

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

A bomb exploded last night in the car park of the Erawan Hotel 80 minutes before Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, was due to dine there with the Thai Prime Minister, General Prem.

Three bystanders were injured but there was little damage. The dinner was moved to another hotel.

General Narong Mahanond, the Thai police chief, said he did not know who was responsible and that nobody had claimed responsibility.

He said measures for the Prime Minister's security had been stepped up immediately after the bomb went off. Rumours of a move against the government swept through Bangkok quickly but they appear to have little substance.

Observers believe the explosion may have been a protest against some American policies towards Thailand.

Before Mr Weinberger arrived in Bangkok on Monday night unidentified political activists had threatened to stage demonstrations during his visit against new American trading laws which threaten Thailand's traditional rice exports.

English lesson on the train



Stephanie Rogez, an English teacher, and her businessmen pupils meet on a Lille-Paris express for a language lesson under a scheme organized by the French railways.

MEPs do battle over home of EEC

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The row over whether the European Parliament should move from Strasbourg to Brussels was stepped up yesterday when a multi-party group Euro-MPs moved to open action in the European Council of Ministers by the French Government, which wants the Parliament to stay in France.

Many MEPs want the assembly moved to Brussels where the Commission and Council of Ministers meet, be at the centre of power and concentrate EEC institutions in the "capital of Europe".

The Parliament, which is largely consultative body, has control over part of the EEC budget, at present holds its debates in Strasbourg as committee meetings in Brussels, with the secretariat based in Luxembourg. MEPs, the staff and tons of documents have to be moved between the three points.

The Parliament voted by slim majority in October authorize building a new parliamentary chamber in Brussels.

Mr Peter Price, Conservative MEP for London South East, and four other MEPs argue that it is "imperative" for the Parliament to assert full its powers.

Cardinal to meet Jaruzelski before the Pope's visit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Primate of Poland, is planning a summit meeting with General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, in the next few weeks to discuss tender Church-state relations before the Pope makes a pilgrimage to his homeland.

At a rare press conference on Monday evening, ostensibly called to introduce the cardinal's impending trip to France, the primate found himself replying to a detailed official attack on the political sins of the Polish priesthood.

In an article recently written under his customary pseudonym, Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, surveyed and attacked several dozen sermons delivered from Polish pulpits. Among other things, he said, the sermons equated communists with Nazis and accused the police of murder.

The article was the first major attack on radical priests for several months and is being regarded as a flexing of the muscles before the detailed negotiations begin on the Pope's trip, due next year.

The cardinal stressed: "It was not a good article even from the point of view of the Polish authorities, as this story mentions the names and addresses of priests who so far have been unknown". He said phrases had been taken out of context.

The church, he said, was also under fire at various closed communist meetings but "of course we have no way of recording such statements" — a jibe at secret police monitoring of church services — "but we know they exist and don't intend to use them to prove there is hostility against the church".

Mr Urban's article showed that the authorities had been

monitoring sermons up and down the country.

He wrote off:

● A priest speaking in the northern port of Szczecin declaring: "Communism is also a collective madness — in the name of Satan it murdered people and set up crematoriums".

● A priest in the Silesian city of Wroclaw preached that both communism and Nazism were without a future because they rejected God. Only religious could shake off the chains and handcuffs.

● A Warsaw priest, Stanislaw Malinowski, recently told his congregation: "There are three systems of threat to human life in the world — communism, Nazism and the destruction of newly-conceived lives (abortion)".

● One bishop said: "Atheists usually grow up to be thieves and murderers".

Other clerics in Mr Urban's long list accused the police of beating up children and of spreading terror. One sermon he quoted called on police agents hidden in Church congregations to "abandon this work, join us... swindlers don't pray. They plot with Satan and push people into the mad".

The authorities, after a lull of several months, now clearly want to reactivate the issue of outspoken priests. Church informants say the quotations given by Mr Urban were sometimes taken out of context.

The Church leadership, however, appears to be responding to some degree to official criticism: it has recently transferred two popular priests from worker parishes to the countryside, where their political influence is less noticeable.

Poles call off UK trip over snub

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

Warsaw yesterday accused Britain of discriminating against the Polish Government by ruling out a meeting between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Polish Foreign Minister, Mr Marian Orzechowski.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, confirmed that an April trip to London had been planned by Mr Orzechowski but that it had been postponed because Warsaw felt he would not get the appropriate reception.

Without actually mentioning the name of Mrs Thatcher, the spokesman made it clear that the Poles felt they had been snubbed. Poland, Mr Urban said, wanted a "partner-like dialogue" with Britain. But during preparatory talks the British side had tried to "discriminate against Poland and denigrate the importance of the visit".

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, visited Warsaw last April and met General Jaruzelski, then Prime Minister, and so the Poles made clear yesterday they expected an equivalent gesture.

"We are very much for the development of relations with Great Britain," Mr Urban told foreign reporters, "but on the basis of mutual reciprocity".

Poland has been steadily easing itself out of the diplomatic isolation imposed by

the West after the declaration of martial law in 1981.

But the Polish Government openly expressed its irritation when the then Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, visited the grave of the murdered Solidarity chaplain, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. Sir Geoffrey, like Mr Rifkind, also met Solidarity advisers.

The Warsaw Government, feeling that the tide was now flowing its way again, attached great importance to high-level meetings in London.

By contrast, Mr Orzechowski is receiving top-flight treatment in Bonn. He has met President Richard von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, as well as his counterpart, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

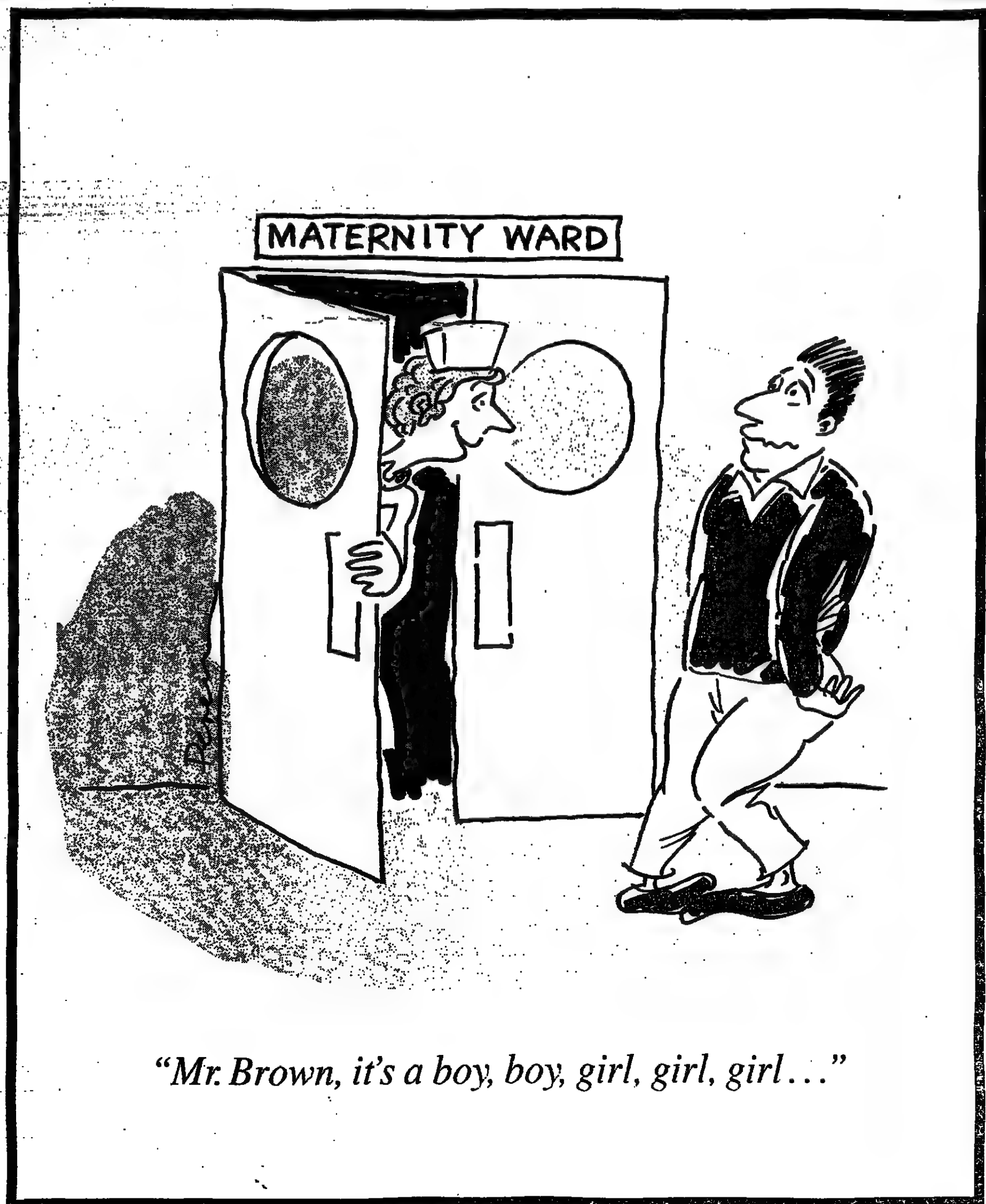
The discussion appears to be mainly about East-West relations with emphasis on achieving a new level of political and economic contacts.

Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, is expected to visit Bonn soon after the East German Communist Party congress, which begins on April 17. There is speculation in Soviet bloc capitals that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, may attend the East Berlin congress, giving support to Herr Honecker's Bonn trip.

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From London To Germany

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| 07.30-09.50 | LH 031 | Frankfurt |
| 08.45-11.15 | LH 063 | Stuttgart |
| 09.35-11.45 | LH 051 | Dusseldorf |
| 10.00-12.25 | LH 033 | Frankfurt |
| 10.00-12.40 | LH 069 | Munich |
| 10.25-12.50 | LH 039 | Hanover |
| 10.35-12.55 | LH 041 | Hamburg |
| 10.50-13.15 | LH 049 | Hanover |
| 11.25-13.45 | LH 047 | Bremen |
| 12.50-15.30 | LH 1361f | Munster |
| 14.00-16.25 | LH 035 | Frankfurt |
| 14.40-16.50 | LH 057 | Cologne/Bonn |
| 14.55-17.20 | LH 043 | Hamburg |
| 15.00-17.10 | LH 053 | Dusseldorf |
| 18.00-20.25 | LH 037 | Frankfurt |
| 18.15-20.45 | LH 067 | Stuttgart |
| 18.25-21.05 | LH 071 | Munich |
| 19.05-21.15 | LH 059 | Cologne/Bonn |
| 19.05-22.35 | LH 059 | Nuremberg |
| 20.05-22.25 | LH 045 | Hamburg |
| 20.15-22.25 | LH 055 | Dusseldorf |

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| 07.20-07.55 | LH 062 | Stuttgart |
| 08.25-08.45 | LH 056 | Cologne/Bonn |
| 08.35-09.05 | LH 030 | Frankfurt |
| 08.50-09.20 | LH 040 | Hamburg |
| 09.05-09.35 | LH 038 | Hanover |
| 09.30-09.45 | LH 050 | Dusseldorf |
| 09.40-10.10 | LH 046 | Bremen |
| 09.45-10.45 | LH 068 | Munich |
| 11.40-12.20 | LH 1360f | Munster |
| 12.35-13.05 | LH 032 | Frankfurt |
| 13.35-14.05 | LH 042 | Hamburg |
| 13.45-14.00 | LH 052 | Dusseldorf |
| 13.45-14.15 | LH 048 | Hanover |
| 16.35-17.05 | LH 034 | Frankfurt |
| 17.00-17.25 | LH 066 | Stuttgart |
| 17.25-17.45 | LH 058 | Cologne/Bonn |
| 18.00-18.15 | LH 054 | Dusseldorf |
| 18.15-19.15 | LH 070 | Munich |
| 18.45-19.15 | LH 044 | Hamburg |
| 20.35-21.05 | LH 036 | Frankfurt |

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Scandinavia's labour crisis

120,000 out of work as Norway is plunged into industrial chaos

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Norway was plunged into industrial chaos yesterday as a series of nationwide lock-outs put about 120,000 people — more than 10 per cent of the employed population — out of work.

In a year of unprecedented labour unrest throughout Scandinavia, the Norwegian dispute was said to be the most serious here since 1931, when 7.5 million working days were lost. Employers took the action late on Monday night after last-minute arbitration organized by the Federation of Trade Unions failed.

The five industries affected are iron and metal, building and construction, hotel and restaurant trades, textiles, and electro-chemicals. The locked-out unions in the industries join 15,000 oil and gas workers whose lock-out at the weekend stopped all production in the North Sea.

Several of Norway's largest industrial concerns have already closed completely. A protracted dispute could halt the entire aluminium industry.

Bewildered hotel residents were asked to leave their rooms as about a quarter of the nation's hotels locked their doors. Hotels unaffected by the dispute were filling up rapidly.

Several newspapers were unable to publish, including the leading quality daily *Aftenposten*, which is forced to postpone its launch of a 32-page tabloid supplement on Saturday. The postponed weekend edition was to be a first step towards Sunday publication, which printing unions have prevented here since 1919.

Negotiations have foundered over a complicated package deal involving relatively higher wage rises for low-paid workers, a shorter working week and a government limit of 5 per cent for overall pay increases. Underlying the conflict, however, is a succession of economic setbacks tied to this year's collapse in oil prices, which has taken the coalition Conservative Government by surprise.

Mr Kaare Willoch, the Prime Minister, says there is unlikely to be any government intervention in the dispute. On television on Monday night he described the dispute as a tragedy, coming at a time when Norway needed as much revenue as it could earn.

The Finance Minister, Mr Rolf Presthus, has predicted a slump in the economy, a warning he combined with the announcement that Norway is to enter international credit markets this year, its first foreign borrowing since 1980.

STOCKHOLM: With massive industrial action postponed at the last minute yesterday, the so-called Swedish model of highly centralized wage bargaining, coupled with a state-run arbitration system, breathes what many observers see as its last gasp (Christopher Mosey writes).

The employers and the unions' organization agreed to the 48-hour postponement only 90 minutes before 18,000 key white-collar workers in private industry were due to strike.

If the dispute is not settled, most private industry will come to a halt on Friday as employers are set to respond with a lock-out of 300,000 workers and the unions call out another 30,000.

Benazir upsets her best friends

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

When Miss Benazir Bhutto, the acting president of the Pakistan People's Party, returns here from exile in London this week, she will find the party founded by her father, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the hanged Prime Minister, in deep disarray.

The party which was her father's vehicle to power and the creation of him and his friends — who included some of the chief feudal landlords of his home province of Sind — is on the point of splitting in three.

Only skilled diplomatic manoeuvring on her part will be able to prevent the split, and many are asking whether she has sufficient experience and tact to achieve it.

The problem arises mainly from the autocratic way in which she has tried to run the party while in exile and the idiosyncratic appointments she has made to key posts.

In particular, she is resented for having bypassed established party figures who were her father's colleagues. Her appointments for instance of Mr Jehangir Badar as the Punjab secretary, and of Mr Shafi Muhammad as secretary of the Sind party, have caused deep offence.

They are regarded by party stalwarts as having no experience and no credentials to occupy such key posts. The fact they were nominated instead of elected is also resented.

The most senior of the party chieftains affected by her attitude has been Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, president of the Sind party, former chief minister of the state and a former federal minister.

While Miss Bhutto was under house arrest or in exile, Mr Jatoi, one of the state's largest landowners, spent much time in prison as leader of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy. He came to London recently to take part in a meeting of the central committee of the party and also to make his protests known to Miss Bhutto.

"I am not happy," he told me in his house in a smart Karachi suburb. "I have given 25 years of my youth to this



Before leaving London, Miss Benazir Bhutto tells newsmen she hopes to bring down the Pakistan Government.

party and to the family. I have given my sweat and my blood and I have given my finances and my youth to this party. I have declined the highest offices in the country.

"I feel the party belongs to me and I belong to the party, and I will make every effort to stay within the party. But I reserve my right to have my principles."

"I will fight for fundamental principles, for consultation on major issues, like foreign policy, like strategy within the country, like appointments," he said.

Mr Jatoi and his followers, who are by no means inconceivable, are particularly angry over the appointments, which they feel have passed over people of real merit.

"There should be elections at all levels," he insists, "but if you have to have nominations, at least you should nominate those who have sacrificed, those who have had lashes, those who have suffered in jails for a number of years. We can't bypass them."

But Miss Bhutto paid him

Greek steel chief assassinated in Athens street

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A leading Greek industrialist was yesterday shot and killed in a busy central Athens street in the tenth political assassination since 1975 to be claimed by the mysterious terrorist organization "17 November".

Mr Dimitris Angelopoulos, aged 79, the founder and chairman of Halyvourgi, the main steel works in south Greece, was murdered as he walked from his Kolonaki flat to his city office.

Witnesses said he was shot five times in the abdomen and chest by a young man wearing a raincoat and waiting on the pavement. They said the man pulled a pistol from a travel bag, fired at the industrialist, then ran across the street to a waiting motorcycle driven by an accomplice. The two escaped in the dense morning traffic.

Mr Angelopoulos, who died shortly afterwards in hospital, was known to have walked the same route every day. Business associates said he, like several other Greek industrialists, had received death threats but chose to ignore them.

Mr Thanasis Tsouras, the Greek Minister of State for Public Order, said a 13-page proclamation claiming responsibility for the killing from the "17 November revolutionary organization" was found near the murder scene.

Since the group inaugurated its terrorist activities in De-

cember 1975 by murdering Mr Richard Welch, the American Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Athens, security authorities have not been able to find a clue that would lead to the arrest of a single member of "17 November".

The organization's victims have included two American officials, four Greek police officers and one Greek newspaper publisher, as well as some of their drivers. Almost all the killings were carried out with the same .45 calibre pistol.

Last November the organization claimed responsibility for bombing a police bus, killing one policeman.

To such a group of extreme left-wingers, Mr Angelopoulos, known here as the grandfather of the Greek steel industry, would represent the typical Greek capitalist even though his family's beginnings were modest and involved a small concern selling nails and wire.

Mr Angelopoulos went into steel proper in the early 1930s and after the war he was able to set up Halyvourgi with the help of the Marshall Plan. Today the steel mill has a workforce of 1,400 and ranks twelfth in the country.

The industrialist had diversified 10 years ago by buying the Alpha steel works in Newport, South Wales, as well as a mill in Switzerland where he also acquired some banking interests.

Aquino accepts first foreign bank loan

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Six weeks after taking power, President Corason Aquino yesterday accepted the first foreign loan for her Government, reminding Filipinos that "while they are now politically free they remain shackled by the economic legacy" of former President Marcos.

The "reckless borrowing and profligate spending" of the Marcos regime had plunged the Philippines into its worst economic crisis since the Second World War. Mrs Aquino said at a foundation-laying ceremony at the headquarters of the 32-nation Asian Development Bank.

She thanked the bank for lending her Government \$100 million (£67.5 million). Military officials, meanwhile, reported that risked men yesterday murdered the former governor of Tarlac, President Aquino's home province, who was dismissed last week.

Mr Said Federico Peralpa, aged 58, a member of Mr Marcos's political party, was asleep in his house in San Manuel Town, when he was stabbed. His wife, Victoria, was wounded in the scuffle.

Bangladesh opposition split

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Divisions in opposition parties campaigning for democracy in Bangladesh became final as the ruling military Government yesterday ended scrutiny of more than 2,100 nomination papers filed for parliamentary polls on May 7.

A last hope for a united movement was dashed as Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of a seven-party alliance which has boycotted the polls, attacked opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed for taking part in the elections under martial law.

Sheikh Wazed, whose 15-party alliance earlier led a

joint civil agitation with Begum Zia, is running in four constituencies.

"They have turned renegades out to share power with the military rulers," Begum Zia told at least 50,000 supporters at a noisy rally in the south-eastern port city of Chittagong on Monday marked by clashes in which 50 people were hurt.

She repeated her demands for withdrawal before the elections of martial law, the release of political prisoners and press freedom. Her accusations evoked an angry re-

sponse from Sheikh Wazed and her Awami League, which has candidates in all 300 constituencies.

"Those who are boycotting the polls are for anarchy," Sheikh Wazed, who has also come under fire from dissident groups in the 15-party alliance, said at a meeting on Monday.

Students' search: Thirty-five Iranian students in Bangladesh have refused to return to Iran and have asked the Dhaka office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to arrange asylum for them in Australia and Canada.

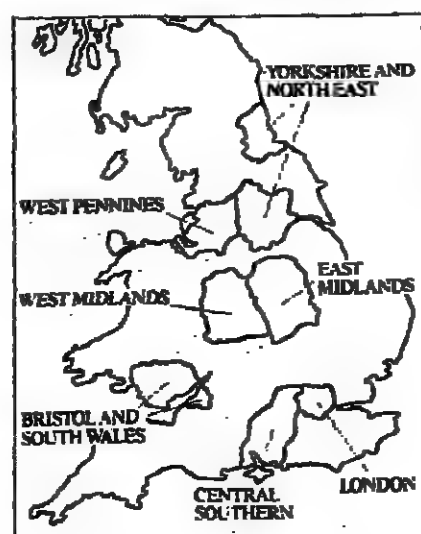
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EAST MIDLANDS 1986

SPECTRUM

Finney bubbles back

Albert Finney's considerable energy has been harnessed by an American play that brings him back to the West End tonight

Albert Finney is looting around the bar of the Apollo Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue like a racehorse kept too long under starter's orders. "Forgive me if I stand up and walk about," he says. "It's all this energy."

There is indeed plenty of energy here - a barrel-chested Charlie Bubbles a quarter of a century on, now finding himself in the pivotal role of a traumatic American drama making the transition from Hampstead Theatre to the West End. He opens tonight in *Orphans*, a three-hander written by Lyle Kessler and first produced in Chicago and New York by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

"I feel like a two-year-old again," says Finney, who is thinking in equine rather than human terms. "No, I feel like an English musician who's gone to New Orleans and put his head inside a jazz club and has heard this fantastic Dixieland music coming from the stage. And I've fallen in love with it. It's not that I was jaded before, I just didn't know what I was going to do."

At least in terms of his immediate future, Finney has found the answer. For the next 12 weeks he will be playing the role of Harold, a Chicago con-man kidnapped by a young crook in an old house in north Philadelphia, and who, rather like the interloper in a Pinter play, envelops the menage with his paternalistic impulses.

The question has to be asked: what was an actor of Finney's magnitude doing in a nice little theatre like Hampstead, without, at that stage, the guarantee of a West End transfer? "The point about Hampstead," he says, "is that it's a little like being on the road. I don't mean to be rude when I say that. It was the right size. It had the same capacity as the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago and the West Side Arts in New York to which it transferred."

As a company, Steppenwolf is noted for the sheer energy with which it invests its productions. When it acquired Albert Finney for the part of Harold in *Orphans* it was compensating the audience for the essentially English acting style of Finney himself.

Apart from *The Biko Inquest* and *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance*, Finney has not been on the stage for seven years, but working on films in England and the United States. "I have been on what you might call a sabbatical for 20 months, unsure what to do next. That is often the case in a fallow spell. You wonder what on earth it is going to be that is going to engage you next."

"I own some thoroughbred racehorses in New York state. Not long ago I was staying in Long Island with some friends, where there are two racetracks. And Michael Medwin, who's head of Memorial Productions, rang me



Kidnapped: Albert Finney as a Chicago con man - "one of those special theatrical experiences"

up and said there was a part which he thought might suit me. Now, as fate would have it, I was going to Manhattan in the next few days, and I went and saw the play, and by the interval I had decided that I wanted to be involved with these people. It was like hearing a different kind of jazz, played by different musicians."

Seeing Finney perform on the play's last night at Hampstead, one was struck by the spectacle of an actor of this stature making the journey, albeit a hazardous one, back to the roots of his trade, and

exposing himself to an entirely new set of influences.

"But for me," Finney recalls, "it was something that enabled me to regain my sea-legs, having been off the stage for so long. In some ways I was rather tense. You see, as well as being in the play, as well as fitting into the style, I had much to answer for, because I was responsible for bringing it over here, and I hadn't realized how tense it would make me feel. That anxiety, which is quite deep, but which is covered over by the demands of doing a show, slowly starts to

emerge, and it wasn't until the end of the third week that I found I could feel at all relaxed."

Even after 30 years in the business, Finney remains an obsessive actor, living and breathing the material of the moment. "In a way, this was a godsend for me, because Jeff Fahey, who plays the part of the older orphan, was new to the cast, the same as I was. So it was a terrific help to see the director Gary Sinise work with him... how he could instill into him that intensity of feeling."

One strange thing about

'It was something that enabled me to regain my sea legs'

Finney's re-emergence on the London stage is that it should be an American role - admittedly one for which he has done long hours of homework. But he does not share the sense of surprise.

"When I was doing *Luther*, I used to go to monasteries and sit with the brothers, just to see what it was like, all those men sitting and eating with each other. For this one, well, I remember all the dead-end kids in the films with Bogart, and that tradition of gangsters with people like Cagney and Tracy. I also had a tape made for me by someone from Steppenwolf with four Chicagoans talking, and I listened to it over and over again."

"And of course I've been living in New York, so I hear them talking, every time I take a cab to work. I have my ear as an actor. Actually I think I once blew a film deal in LA because a guy who ran the studio had an intrusive sound - it was that it - and I listened to him absolutely fascinated, and suddenly found myself saying to him 'shimply shimming', just because I'd been watching his mouth move, and imitating it to myself. I couldn't help it."

"But, you see, my generation of kids, we used to imitate all the movie stars. If there was a Jolson movie in town, then we'd do Jolson. If it was Bogey, we'd do Bogey, and so on."

Orphans is a draining theatrical experience, for the cast no less than the audience, and Finney would have it no other way. It chronicles a sea-change of domestic responsibilities between a street criminal elder brother and the sibling whom he has kept, in every sense, in the dark, in order to enhance his own sense of indispensability in the absence of a bona fide parent. All this is called into question by the advent of a "kidnap victim" eager to impart his own street-wisdom even-handedly to both boys.

"I don't argue that this is the be-all and end-all," Finney says, "but I do say that it's one of those special theatrical experiences you get every once in a while. You want every job to be like this, and to fire you in a particular way. I'll tell you why I believed it important for Steppenwolf to bring the

show over more or less in the form in which it was done in America. Go back to *West Side Story*. When that arrived, it was a revelation to English dancers to see a US dance company doing the things it did for the four months prior to its replacement. If the English dancers hadn't seen it, they wouldn't have known what the Americans were talking about."

When he tries to analyse the style of Steppenwolf's Gary Sinise, director of *Orphans*, Finney goes back to 1959, when he was understudying Olivier in *Coriolanus*. "After having done four or five performances in the part, I became aware of the fact that a great actor can take a role with a wide range, and make it even wider. Olivier himself had laid down a very clear blueprint, and so it was not the easiest thing to understudy. If there had been two comparative graphs, mine would have been wobbling around on the equator, but Olivier's would have consisted of great sweeps up and down to both the poles. I believe that Gary Sinise is doing an Olivier on the directorial level, pushing his actors to the very extremes of emotion."

These days Finney the nag-fancier may no longer be the champion yearling he once was on his first cuttings of the Fifties, but he remains decidedly sprightly, eager for new courses. He traces his love of horses back to boyhood in Salford, where his father and grandfather before him ran a bookmaker's. "The thing about racing is that it's adrenalin-producing and you don't have to make an effort yourself. It's thrilling without your having to 'put out' as they say."

"In middle-age, in this business you can get fuddy-duddy. I've always felt that with the so-called new wave, people say: 'everything's going to change'. And then it gets written off as a movement, the idea of a spearhead cultural assault, and then after that the actors go their own way and it all settles down. I just believe in work in progress. It's a life. One of the things I love is that I don't know what I'll be doing in six months time. I have this sense of loyalty to a piece of work."

Alan Franks

Trouble brewing

The cost of the coffee in your cup is going up. Droughts, wars, earthquakes and assorted disasters natural and manmade have pushed up world coffee prices to their highest levels for a decade. Supermarket prices have risen twice this year already, and more increases are on the way.

The increases reflect a virtual doubling of world raw or green coffee prices. In January 1985 coffee fetched about 150 cents a pound. By January this year it was 198 cents, and futures prices - the amount traders expect to pay in three months time - are 250 cents.

So what is happening? The answer is a graphic example of the chain linking a raw material with the final consumer and the first link is the coffee tree, of which there are two main types - arabica and robusta.

The finest and most expensive coffees are often arabica, which are mainly used for roasted and ground beans. Robustas are turned into instant coffee. But all coffees are grown between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn in areas of high rainfall. They need slopes for drainage, plenty of sun to ripen the fruit (which develops into the familiar bean), and steady warmth between 25 and 30 degrees centigrade.

Sudden changes in temperature can wreak havoc. Most of the coffee-growing regions of Brazil suffered drought during the critical early months of the flowering and pollination which produces the coffee berries, and the damage has been spectacular. Production - some 30 million bags in 1984/5 - may be as low as

16 million this year. That has combined with wars in Uganda and Angola, and earthquakes and floods in Latin America, to disrupt the balance between supply and demand on the world market. There is also the fear that a frost in the middle of the year - the southern hemisphere winter - could inflict more damage.

In theory, limits to coffee prices are set by the International Coffee Organization, which has 75 exporting and importing members. But the recent rise has been so explosive that it burst through the ICO's ceiling of 150 cents a pound. Attempts to control the price have been suspended. Only when the industry is confident of a good Brazilian crop again will prices fall.

Michael Prest

Resisting the corporate raiders

Stephen Aris concludes his series on takeovers with a look at a family firm where management and workers united to fight off a bid

In the early 1970s Victor Watson, chairman of the printing and games company John Waddington, created something of a stir by rounding up half a dozen tycoons and sitting them down at Brown's Hotel to play Monopoly, his company's best known product. The contest was won by the late Sir John Cohen of Teeco, thanks to some useful advice from Watson himself.

A few years later Watson was playing Monopoly in earnest: and this time it was not Mayfair and Park Lane that were at stake but Waddington itself. Worse, Watson's adversary - Robert Maxwell of the British Printing Corporation, Mirror Group and Oxford United - occupied most of the best spaces on the board.

For a long period in 1983 and again in 1984 it looked as if Waddington, an old-established family company based in Leeds, would go the way of the 15,909 British firms that have been swallowed up by bigger fish since 1963, at a cost to the buyers of £92 billion.

In the event the raider was beaten off and the business transformed. Waddington today is a much leaner, fitter and more profitable company than it was when Robert Maxwell came knocking on the door. And though many of the changes were initiated before the takeover battle, Watson says that there is no doubt that the company has benefited from the experience, unpleasant and nerve-racking though it was.

"One effect was that it pushed us centre stage with the spotlight firmly on us," he says. "We are still quite a small company but these days we are in a different league. City analysts come to visit us and we are discussed and talked about."

The other tangible by-product is financial. In two years, as Maxwell struggled for control, the company's shares rose fourfold: a £10 million company in early 1983 became a £40 million one by the end of 1984. When it was all over Waddington used its new-found financial muscle to make a couple of friendly takeovers of its own. Last December it acquired an American plastics company.

Additional reporting by Jeremy Warner and William Kay.



Playing for real: Victor Watson and Robert Maxwell, who did not pass go

Comet Products, and a British firm making self-adhesive labels, for a total of £7.4 million. Although the other benefits of the battle are not so easily measured, they are real. Victor Watson and his managing director, David Perry, who together orchestrated the anti-Maxwell campaign, are convinced that the company would never have pulled through had not the workforce united behind them to keep

There is no doubt that the company has benefited

the company independent. There was never any question of Watson's own determination. "People accused me of being too emotionally committed, and I am," he says. There have been Watsons in the company for three generations and the chairman's first task was to transmit his enthusiasm to a workforce that had already suffered heavy redundancies and to a management that had been comprehensively reshuffled.

Watson's style is direct and personal. His humour is dry and self-deprecating. And although he had been busy wielding the hatchet himself,

he had little difficulty in casting Robert Maxwell as the bogeyman.

Maxwell first gave notice of his intentions in a telephone call to Watson at 7.30 on the morning of May 17, 1983. He said that he was coming to save the company, that everybody should work together, and that he intended to make Watson vice-chairman of his master company, BPCC. Watson, who was already fighting off another takeover bid from a local firm called Norton Opax, told Maxwell to get lost. Two hours later the formal bid arrived. Maxwell was offering 240p per share, which valued the company at around £12 million, slightly better than the Norton Opax bid.

The next step was to assemble all the shop stewards and other representatives in the canteen and to make an unshamed appeal for loyalty and solidarity. As a former Maxwell employee, David Perry, the managing director and former England rugby international, voiced his lack of enthusiasm, and was supported by a union official who had also once worked for a company taken over by Maxwell.

The meeting had the desired result. Over the next 18 months, so Watson says, the loyalty of the workforce never

like that sort of thing," Watson says. But it was only at the eleventh hour, when Watson and Perry joined the support of the Norwich Union, which held nearly 5 per cent of the company, that victory seemed even likely.

Even then the company would not have escaped had not the hard-won fruits of the previous two years of rationalization and reorganization already started to show through. When Maxwell made his first bid, the company's performance was dreadful: profits of only £162,000 on a turnover of £43 million.

Everybody was determined to fight off Maxwell

But management had an ace up its sleeve. It knew that in the next year the profits would be at least £2.5 million. The problem was whether the company would be given time to show what it could do. David Perry says: "All along we were trying desperately to persuade the shareholders that their faith in us was justified; that in the end we would deliver."

The outcome for the company was a happy one. It handsomely bettered its profit forecast and Maxwell retired with a bloody nose. But it was, as the Duke of Wellington said, "a damned close-run thing". The episode has left Victor Watson with his confidence and enthusiasm unimpaired but with strong views about corporate raiders.

"They are not interested in rebuilding companies," he says. "They are opportunists in for the main chance."

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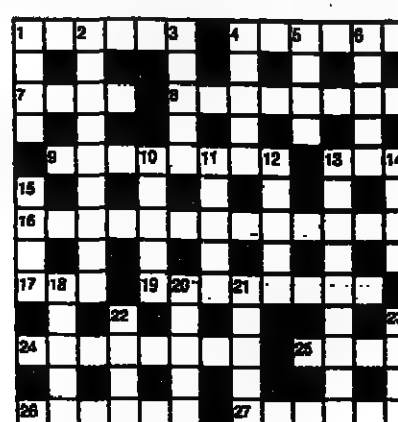
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ACROSS
1 Steady (6)
4 Superficial (6)
7 Bow (4)
8 Cosmos (8)
9 Destruction remains (8)
13 Darg behind (3)
16 Unostentatious (13)
17 Dried grass (3)
19 Merciless (8)
24 Movableness (8)
25 Chinese dog (4)
26 Mean (6)
27 Strong drink (6)

DOWN
1 Engraved (4)
2 Life story (9)
3 Tree stem (5)
4 Toss (5)
5 Ship's company (4)
6 Lariat (5)
10 Inexpensive (5)
11 Attentive (5)
12 Exact (5)



13 Bride's bundle (9)
14 Sensible (4)
15 Quiescent (4)
16 Decorate (5)
28 Trojan epic (5)
29 Pastoral music (5)
22 Discharge (4)
23 Change direction (4)

SOLUTION TO No 919

ACROSS: 1 Scenic 5 Cows 8 Facing 9 Unsound 11 Debility 13 Guide 15 Accoutrements 17 Mead 18 Vertebra 21 Remnant 22 Quilt 23 Odds 24 Regard
DOWN: 2 Climb 3 Nod 4 Counterfitter 5 Coat 6 Soupcon 7 Wind-jammer 10 Dreammaker 12 Load 14 Limit 16 Cramped 19 Briar 20 Less 22 Grog

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Progress brings its own dilemma for the childless, Thomson Prentice writes

The test tube maybe...

The bright clusters of snapshots pinned to the memo-board in a London clinic are a constant reminder that at least some dreams come true. Every picture of a new-born baby tells its own story of a successful fight against infertility.

More than anything else in her life, Tessa Horton wants to add to that collection. But she is 38 now and after five years of disappointment, she knows the odds are against her.

Neither she nor her husband Michael will surrender their dream while the doctors continue to offer them even a slender hope. "I tend to live from one appointment to the next," she says, after travelling 40 miles from her Surrey home to see a specialist in the clinic at Hammersmith Hospital.

For the Hortons, and an estimated one million other couples in Britain struggling to overcome childlessness, doctors can resort to a remarkable and increasing number of treatments. Advances in the use of drugs, surgical techniques and *in vitro* fertilization, mean that babies are now being born to couples who until quite recently would have been described as hopeless cases.

Failure to ovulate may be responsible for between 20 and 30 per cent of all infertility, but it is one of the most successful areas for treatment with drugs.

Menstrual cycles are controlled by the pituitary and hypothalamus glands in the brain. Ovulation depends on the complex interplay of the pituitary hormone, FSH (follicle stimulating hormone) and the hormone oestrogen in the ovary.

Unless this delicate relationship is precisely balanced, a woman is unlikely to ovulate and thus cannot conceive.

The drug clomiphene is an anti-oestrogen that has been used for many years and is highly successful in inducing ovulation by causing a rise in the production of FSH and LH (luteinizing hormone), another important pituitary chemical.

Other fertility drugs are based on the gonadotrophin hormones which



That view is challenged by Dr Edwards and Mr Sefton at Bourn Hall. "We don't believe IVF should be seen as a last resort. It has a very important place in the treatment of infertility and deserves more recognition as such," Dr Edwards says.

Professional rivalry is intense among IVF specialists and it is common to hear criticisms of one unit's work by scientists in another. Edwards and Sefton have been especially critical of the practice by some clinics of replacing three or more fertilized eggs in the mother's womb to increase the chances of a live birth.

They believe that this practice reduces the chances of all the embryos surviving to maturity, endangers the health of the mother, and may result in a multiple birth of premature babies.

And the impact on a childless couple of becoming the parents of up to four infants may be extremely stressful, they say. Last October, a retired art historian, Mr Tony del Renzio, aged 70, found himself in such a situation. His wife Doris, 38, gave birth to two girls and two boys after IVF treatment at Hammersmith Hospital.

"I must admit we would have been happier if we had been able to have just one baby," Mr del Renzio says. "But we were warned about the risk of a multiple birth, and we took that risk willingly."

The babies were the third set of quads to be born following IVF at Hammersmith in the last four years. Many more single births there have also resulted from the treatment.

Mr Winston, the clinic's director, agrees that multiple births should be avoided, but argues that until techniques are improved through research, it is reasonable to offer patients the maximum chance of a baby with the least number of attempts.

Such techniques are likely to be much more successful within the next few years as new research yields its potential.

At Edinburgh University's repro-

Simon Wood, a consultant gynaecologist at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, has achieved a 33 per cent live birth rate in a small number of patients by using a laser. He performs the operation, known as a salpingostomy, guiding a laser beam with a microscope, to remove blockages at the outer ends of the fallopian tubes. There is no tissue damage caused by the laser and therefore less chance of the blockage recurring, he says.

Following the operation, one patient, Mrs Shoma Ankers, 25, of Exeter, succeeded in becoming pregnant and earlier this month gave birth to a son. She and her husband Stephen, 27, agreed to the surgery as an alternative to seeking *in vitro* fertilization.

Unfortunately, neither drugs nor surgery are as effective in treating infertility as they are in women patients. Most male disorders are entirely untreatable, although some encouraging progress has been made in the last few years.

Surgery can be successful in reversing vasectomies, but fully restored fertility may result in less than half the cases. Researchers in the United States have found that deterioration of the testicles can occur in otherwise healthy men following a vasectomy.

This new finding, reported last November, follows other research indicating that the body's immune system produces an anti-sperm antibody following vasectomy.

About 10 per cent of infertile men are believed to produce antibodies to their own sperm, but treatment to counteract this condition has been developed at the Chelsea Hospital for Women and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and elsewhere.

A success rate of 33 per cent in pregnancies has been achieved so far.

Scores of drugs are available to try to increase sperm production and improve sperm quality, but in the opinion of one leading specialist, none of them has shown any significant advantage.

For many infertile men and women, the well-publicized developments in *in vitro* fertilization appear to offer the greatest hope. But just what are their chances of having a test-tube baby?

Since the birth of Louise Brown in Oldham in 1978, more than 2,000 test-tube babies have been born around the world. Last year, the first frozen embryo baby was born in Australia.

Last month, Britain's first frozen embryo baby, Gregory Jackson, was born to his 34 year old mother and her schoolteacher husband, as a result of *in vitro* fertilization treatment at the Bourn Hall clinic, near Cambridge, of IVF pioneers Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe.

In Britain, America and Australia, many hundreds of embryos are now stored in liquid nitrogen tanks at 200 degrees C below zero. They are the potential children of infertile couples who have undergone IVF treatment.

Some embryos produced through IVF have been donated to other childless couples. The freezing and storage of sperm has also been successfully developed. Last November, Australian scientists announced they were the first team to successfully freeze and thaw human ova, which can subsequently be fertilized *in vitro*.

But despite the extraordinary advances, IVF treatment is still much more likely to fail than succeed. Only about 15 per cent of patients produce babies as a result, although research has shown that women's expectations are up to three times higher.

Test-tube baby treatment should be seen as the last resort, usually appropriate only when all else has failed, says Mr Robert Winston, director of infertility clinic and IVF programme at Hammersmith Hospital.

"It is one of the least successful of all fertility treatments and has taken attention away from other treatments which are usually far more likely to be of help."

Research on human embryos has raised the fiercest controversy

ductive endocrinology department, Professor David Baird is trying to develop tests to identify which fertilized human eggs are healthy, and which are abnormal. They hope to be able to exclude abnormal "pre-embryos" from IVF treatment, implanting in the mother only those which they judge to be most likely to mature and survive through pregnancy.

Undoubtedly the skills of specialists such as Professor Baird will lead to better treatment and benefits to other forms of infertility. Much depends, however, on research, and it is research on human embryos which has aroused the fiercest controversy.

The recommendation from the Warnock committee that restricted research should be permitted under the regulations of a statutory licensing authority has failed to impress many opponents.

Mr Enoch Powell has been unsuccessful in seeking legislation to ban such research, but many MPs have similar views and the next episode in the parliamentary campaign has already begun with the publication on January 24 of a private member's Bill very similar to Mr Powell's.

Rival factions in politics and the medical profession have formed their own pressure groups to try to sway public opinion.



Arianna Stassinopoulos: lead role in a designer wedding

Arianna, social rocket

Ken "Kick" Start, independent TV producer, is pitching an idea for a prime time soap opera to network executive Rushing Yardage in the Polo Lounge of the Beverly Hills Hotel.

"I see it as a Joan Collins or Anjelica Huston vehicle - two more Mario," says Start. "It's about this superwoman. Young, Beautiful, A genius. She is from Italy. Or Greece. Let's make it Greece."

"She is sent to England to be educated. Oxford or what's that other place? Cambridge. Make it Cambridge. She is the brightest star of her generation. She meets all the Right People. They love her. She has affairs with some of the Right People. She dumps them."

"She writes. She pontificates. Books, TV, magazines, newspapers. But is she happy?"

"She goes to New York. Conquest, conquest all the way. Glimmerati. Literati. She meets the Right People. They love her. She has affairs with the Right People. She dumps them. Is she happy?"

"Then she has this wild romance with the heir to a gigantic Texas oil fortune. Figure we can end the first season with the climactic event - a glittering society wedding with New York's elite donating kidneys to be invited."

"The working title is Arianna."

The story of Arianna Stassinopoulos - the "rise and rise" as one New York magazine has called her thoroughbred stride in a social steeplechase - may never be the subject of a prime time soap opera but all the ingredients are there: beauty, genius, conflict, passion and, now, enormous wealth.

On Saturday, 300 Right People will gather at the Romanesque-style St Bartholomew's church in Manhattan for her ostentatious wedding to Michael Huffington, the bright, handsome 38-year-old heir to a Texas oil and gas fortune conservatively estimated at \$300 million. As a social event it may rival the forthcoming wedding of Caroline Kennedy.

Bishop Edwin Moore, Episcopal Bishop of New York, will officiate at a ceremony written by Arianna and combining Protestant and Greek traditions to the background strains of Haydn and Telleman.

Wealth marries fame this weekend

in a soap opera setting, reports Peter Fearon

The guest list is apparently an abstract of *Who's Who* and *The Forbes 400* although few names have surfaced. The matron of honor is Ann Getty, wife of Gordon Getty, arguably the world's richest individual. She is also Arianna's patron and surrogate mother, the woman who has helped guide her over many a social obstacle.

The attendants, to be clad in creations of designer Paul-Louis Orrier, will be Lucky Roosevelt, chief of protocol at the White House; Barbara Walters, the ABC interviewer who has gained more celebrity than the celebrities she interviews; Terry Huffington, the groom's sister; and Agapi Stassinopoulos, Arianna's sister.

Guests include Princess Michael of Kent, publisher Lord Weidenfeld, Henry and Nancy Kissinger and Mrs Alfred Bloomingdale, widow of the department store millionaire.

The night before the wedding there will be a cosy dinner for 100 at New York's Asia Society and there will be what a member of Arianna's staff calls "a small reception" for the 300 wedding guests at New York's palatial Metropolitan Club.

The wedding is the climax of a glittering career as a single woman in American society and doubtless the start of a hectic one as a hostess. Her publishers may be forgiven for wondering what it will do for her writing career - the manuscript of her Picasso biography is reportedly nearly two years late.

Arianna came to the United States in 1981 to promote her biography of Maria Callas; subsequently, it was alleged that an already published work on Callas had been plundered for the biography and there was litigation and an out-of-court settlement.

Arianna remained, as Americans say, "unfazed". Her entrée into American society comprised a letter to Lucky Roosevelt and a series of introductions from, among others, Lord Weidenfeld and Lord Bernstein.

She was befriended by Barbara Walters and began filling index files with Right People telephone numbers, many of which she was invited by Ann Getty. She followed up the social leads assiduously, helped by a small staff of personal aides.

Her arrival as a celebrity came with a lengthy, colourful profile in *New York* magazine. She was pictured gliding about New York harbour in an open speedboat, not a hair out of place, working in her study; greeting guests, even balancing grapes on her head.

"When she goes to the ballet," the magazine reported, "she is hailed and cheered by so many people it seems the performance will have to be delayed."

I also noted, prophetically, her "desire to get into society and find a wealthy husband". Arianna has never confirmed that this was indeed her desire, but she has certainly succeeded in finding one.

She moved to Los Angeles, apparently bent on conquering the west coast as thoroughly as she has New York and Washington.

In September last year she met Michael Huffington at the San Francisco Symphony - introduced by the ubiquitous Mrs Getty. Huffington shuns publicity even as Arianna craves it. The Houston Post library department reveals it has "just one iddy biddy clip" on him referring to his nomination as Assistant Secretary for Commerce in 1984. He withdrew.

It is apparently on his insistence that as little information as possible is being revealed about his wedding and that is also one of the reasons why Arianna is not giving interviews prior to her nuptials.

Huffington graduated from Stanford University with a BA in economics and a BSc in engineering and, reflecting the fact that oil millionaires do most of their prospecting on Wall Street, went on to Harvard Business School for an MBA. He is a senior executive in his father's company.

It is not a biography to set pulses racing among *Dallas* scriptwriters, but it has the aura of money and status. Arianna can supply enough of the rest to keep the show in the ratings long after the opening night.

One day my chintz will come

FIRST PERSON

Recently there was a two-day exhibition for the furniture trade at Kensington Exhibition Centre. It was called

"Better Buy British" and was held to persuade people to do just that.

Britain designs and prints some of the most beautiful fabrics in the world. The ranges of glazed chintz - now enjoying an unprecedented revival both here and in America - are particularly mouth-watering.

And many of us would indeed like to buy British. The big problem comes when you actually try to do so. A personal story illustrates how very difficult it can be to get the British fabric you want hanging up at your windows or covering your chairs.

At the beginning of April, I'm still waiting. The material has not yet arrived in the shop. To add insult to injury, I am informed that there will be a price rise when the fabric is eventually delivered.

In the meantime, another room needed curtains. I found just the stuff, again a glazed chintz - yes, I'm a convert, too - in the Colefax and Fowler range. The shop rather shamefacedly rang to say there was a 10-week wait for this particular design and that I could expect it to arrive around the end of May.

A neighbour, also doing up her house, told me she had to wait four months for some curtains for a bedroom. She too had ordered British fabric.

Was all this just bad luck, an unhappy coincidence, or is there something less than 100 per cent efficient about the British furnishing industry?

It seems it is the latter. In fact, my neighbour and I can count ourselves among the fortunate ones. Delays of six months, apparently, are not uncommon, and some people are now having to wait up to

two and a half years for certain special designs. Such is the demand that our fabric ladies, run on distinctly cottage-like lines, simply cannot cope.

Henry Greenfield of Colefax and Fowler told me: "Everybody wants glazed chintz. Business has doubled in the past two years and the machinery and staffing levels are inadequate to deal with the new demand." With three-and-a-half million people unemployed, one is tempted to ask, why don't they take more people on and get more machinery?

"Just lately," Mr Greenfield continued, "there has been an absolute glut of orders. We, like most fabric firms, have to rely on a few small fabric printers, who quickly fill up with work. We all have to wait our turn."

Allison Richards, buying director of Habitat, confessed that she is often in despair about the British furnishing industry. She said: "On the whole, British manufacturers are absolutely terrible, really disastrous."

"Once they quote a delivery time, you find they rarely stick to it. The casual system does hurt us, but we've just had to get used to it. These delivery dates are a problem throughout the whole home furnishing industry in this country. Manufacturers may quote March 1, but often May 1 will do. It's got to the point where you are actually surprised if it does come on time."

"At Habitat we like to buy British, but so often we have to order from abroad. We have a ridiculous situation in that work and a full order book, why should they worry about getting new orders? You've got me on my hobby horse

to whichever firm is behaving itself at the time."

"It's true there is now a huge demand, but so many British firms are living in the past. In the days when retailers could carry a lot of stock, it didn't matter so much, but most like to offer a large selection and so they can now only have samples in the shop."

"As a large high street chain we have slightly more sample stock, but even so, we have to wait a long time. Unlike foreign firms, British companies don't appear to want to expand and grow. Their attitude seems to be that if they've got enough work and a full order book, why should they worry about getting new orders? You've got me on my hobby horse

NO MADAM - THAT'S THE YEAR YOU CAN EXPECT DELIVERY...



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now", she added apologetically. Liberty, on the other hand, were distinctly huffy over any suggestion that there could be something wrong with the British furnishing trade. Their official spokesman said: "We have 189 designers, and at any one time, 90 per cent will be available. There have been some technical difficulties with a particular design (the one I ordered, naturally) and twice we've had to reject batches. We are still trying to get it right."

Perhaps I'm being particularly impatient, but it seems to me that four months is an awfully long time to wait.

Liz Hodgkinson

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Labour: how real the revival?

Fulham opens a series of key by-elections tomorrow.

George Brock reports on the signals coming from the constituencies

If, as all the polls suggest, Labour wins tomorrow's by-election in Fulham, the result will be rapidly projected into numbers of seats to be won and lost at the next general election. This post-election ritual has always been an inexact science because of the distortions caused by the special conditions of a by-election; three-party politics makes these predictions even more unreliable. With more choices available to the floating voter, the exact way in which those decisions are made is of unprecedented importance.

Fulham is only the first of three by-elections due this spring. The other two, in West Derbyshire and Ryedale, look likely to be held alongside the council elections of May. Will these very different seats confirm or confound the predictions made after Fulham? A large enough margin of victory will make an outright Labour victory next time seem closer. The three lines on the opinion poll graphs are bunched tightly together at the moment, just as they were in early 1982 before the Falklands war pulled them violently apart. The key issue now is how many Conservative defectors there will be and whether they will go to Labour or the Alliance.

All three by-elections will reveal not only fresh clues about where the votes are going but also why. The Times commissioned Market & Opinion Research International (MORI) to conduct six in-depth discussion groups among voters in these constituencies who are thinking of changing their allegiance. What are the underlying issues, we wanted to know, that will move voters?

There are two current interpretations of Labour's performance in the opinion polls. One holds that with a number of temporary problems behind it, the party is steadily reasserting its natural claim to be the only opposition to the Tories. With Michael Foot replaced by Neil Kinnock, the anti-Militant purge under way and party organization revamped, this theory goes, Labour can bolder go for an outright majority, profiting from the unpopularity of Thatcher's policies. The Alliance may take votes from the Tories but it will do little damage in the Labour heartlands of the north and the cities.

The counter-argument to this holds that these successes are mostly on the surface. Kinnock may be likeable, according to the voters, but he is untried and thought likely to be ineffectual. Dislodging Militant, if possible at all, will be a long and unpleasant business. Party reorganization amounts to updating the party's marketing operation in order to provide a more effective disguise for ideological disunity. According to *La Stampa*, Denis Healey appar-

ently agrees with some of this interpretation. The extent to which voters lean towards either of these feelings about Labour will help determine the division of the spoils - the votes leaving the Tories. With voters continuing volatile and unpredictable, there is much still to play for.

The opinion polls of the last six months show Labour's vote holding generally steady, with most of the movement between the Conservatives and the Alliance. The strongest and clearest impression left by our groups was of the continuing appeal of the centre ground. What political scientists call "negative" voting (choosing against something disliked rather than for something liked) seems to dominate, as it mainly did in the 1983 election.

A travelling stable lad in Ryedale voiced the creed of the negative, discontented mid-term voter who could end up anywhere on the political spectrum. "Mrs Thatcher is not far off being a dictator. Kinnock is the lesser of two evils, I suppose. She's going too far and he's not going far enough... I might vote Liberal this time."

Short-sighted and signs of slipping

It was central to Mrs Thatcher's electoral appeal that she did not look or sound like a stereotypical Conservative, and thus attracted an unusual number of working-class votes. Both in these groups and in discussion groups commissioned by the Times last autumn on the influence of the "Thatcher Factor", it was clear that her most individual characteristics and achievements were fading in the public memory. Nobody appeared influenced - to the extent that it might affect the way they vote - by a Falklands factor. Her leadership during the Falklands conflict is spoken of as an episode that is now history.

Nobody mentioned the Prime Minister in connection with any kind of overall economic vision for Britain. Asked to write down descriptive words for each of the party leaders more than one used the expression "short-sighted". Brian, a marble mason living in Fulham and undecided about his vote this week: "I think her sternness has stopped us slipping further and further down, but I think she's come to a point now, I don't know whether she can improve it. Maybe she might start to slip down."

The Westland affair may not have affected the government's standing in the



polls, but it has coloured views of what goes on in the Cabinet room. "Margaret Thatcher had such a lot of good ideas when she was starting... She's gone over the top. She's right regardless of what her ministers say." (Sandy, self-employed cleaner, Matlock). A Ryedale group was asked how they would describe the Thatcher era to their grandchildren: "Dominated chaos... steady erosion of the things that matter, health, education, the elderly and jobs... law of the jungle... selling off assets... she just had faith in ourselves and in her country." In the weariness of some voices talking about her is the sense that she has become a politician like all the others.

But Mrs Thatcher is not the issue she was; not every defecting Conservative is fleeing from her; her party's problems are more general. The Tories are noticeably more and more associated with sectional interest, the defence of money and class. References to huge City salaries were frequent. A Fulham housewife who had voted Tory in 1983, conflating innuendo about shady goings on over Westland

and financial scandals, described Conservative politicians as "corrupt". Sue, a clerical officer in Fulham remembered the quotation on the steps of Downing Street in 1979: "Mrs Thatcher quotes from St Francis of Assisi when she's saying we'll bring harmony. Its more like 'to those who have shall be given, to those who have not shall be taken away'."

Alan, a Youth Training Scheme supervisor in Matlock, observed that when his groups of youngsters discussed politics, there were mysteriously few Labour voices. "Next year's voters" were all planning to vote either Conservative or Liberal. Behind the frequent, and traditional, voters' complaints about the "extremism" of politicians on the far right and left seems to lie a large measure of acceptance of much early Thatcher rhetoric and change, but with significant exceptions which have become increasingly important as the second term has unfolded. How far floating voters travel back across the political spectrum - whether they stop in the centre or cross all the way back to Labour - seems to be determined by

what issues have brought them to part company with Mrs Thatcher, for whom they voted in 1979 and 1983.

Mrs Thatcher's changes, particularly privatization, have made those leaning towards the Alliance create a new informal definition of what should remain in communal hands. Few people made much of the plan to privatize British Gas, but several picked out the water privatization plans for special condemnation ("you can't make money on the essential services"). The same people, who will probably have had few strong feelings about some privatization and approved some measure of economic stimulation, feel increasingly strongly about health service cuts, and perhaps strongest of all about education. In the Fulham middle-class group, Jerry was defending the forcing of technological change on the labour force in order that Britain should remain competitive. Yes, said Sue, but look what she's doing to the universities: "there won't be anybody to get near the new technology."

A trickle back in both directions

In these respects, the middle-class and middle-ground voters we talked to in all three constituencies fit the pattern which some recent research has shown to be the profile of the natural Alliance constituency. Its heartland seems to consist of people with economic views to the right of the Labour party, in tune with some, if not all of Mrs Thatcher's economic reforms but with views on social, foreign and defence affairs well to the left of the Conservative positions. But these groups cast doubt on how far these instincts have been fused into anything which could be called a set of slogans, let alone a philosophy.

The overwhelming impression left by the floaters of the centre was of people holding a set of strong views about what they wanted to avoid rather than the society they wanted to create. Not only will some gravitate back to Labour, but a proportion will, in the end, stay with the Conservatives.

But some of the same seemed to apply to socialism as well. Those people drifting back to traditional Labour loyalties after taking temporary refuge with the Alliance said they were doing so without necessarily being convinced that the new Kinnock crusade against Militant will succeed, although all wanted Militants expelled.

The overall picture of Kinnock - sincere but weak and inexperienced - suggests that the major issue he will confront at an election is a variant of the problem which troubles much of Labour's difficulty in 1983. Do the voters believe that Labour can achieve the promises of the manifesto?

This question is at the heart of the politics of unemployment; doubts about whether Labour could affect the figures

was a major hindrance to them in 1983. Nick, a young unemployed man in Ryedale: "If I could have voted last time, it would have been a case of ease it would have been a case of ease I meanie miney mo. I still don't feel I know enough about the main parties to know, so I'd do it just the same way unless someone came to me and told me about politics. Obviously jobs are the main thing as far as someone like me is concerned. I suppose that if any party can do something about that it would be Labour." But for each, Nick there are several voices acknowledging either that new technology makes high unemployment likely for good or that Britain paid itself uncompetitive wages for too long.

That leaves the two principal issues otherwise mentioned most frequently as reasons for voting against the Conservatives as perceived cuts in health and education. On these two fronts, the Alliance seem as well placed to gain as Labour: the natural constituencies for each party are both consumers of the services and the Alliance has not suffered from much division or vagueness on the subject. Unemployment remains a potential mover of a great many votes, but not until Labour overcomes the credibility gap more decisively than it has so far or until the figures take a dramatic turn for better or worse.

The Alliance advantage here is that middle-class consumers of health services and education facilities may be more likely to be more sensitive and active over changes than their working-class counterparts; but they are less likely to have unemployed people in their families.

Labour faces a difficult tactical and strategic dilemma. One of the most tempting ways for the party to seek an overall majority is to consolidate its hold on its traditional centres of strength in the north. If its vote rises a little above last time and, in addition, the Alliance makes heavy inroads into the Tory vote in the south, Labour could win with a relatively low proportion of the vote. Its results in the south could safely ignored.

But this would shrink Labour's base into only a section of the country and would run contrary to its ambition to remain a national force - an aim enshrined in the target list of marginals all over the country prepared by the shadow cabinet election strategist, Robin Cook. Last year a close adviser to Neil Kinnock remarked that, whatever polls and politicians said in the meanwhile and in public, Labour's essential task at the next election was to remain a national political force. Ryedale and West Derbyshire - although they will now be wooed to vote tactically for the Alliance - are test cases in the last 20 years (during which both constituencies have changed their borders), the Labour vote has halved in West Derbyshire and been quartered in Ryedale. Labour's problems, whatever the polls say, remain that great.

MORI conducted six in-depth discussion groups in the three by-election constituencies of Fulham, West Derbyshire and Ryedale. Each group contained about eight white participants representing the best educated public. The survey technique was distinctive rather than quantitative.

After Fulham, the battle for the beauty spots

Even in the most private and fearful of Tory vocabularies the word defeat does not crop up when the constituencies of West Derbyshire and Ryedale in North Yorkshire come under scrutiny, as they are now in the run-up to their respective by-elections.

Both, on the face of it, are safe, solid and blamelessly rural, and long the preserve of two great parliamentary families. Until shortly before the Second World War West Derbyshire was frequently represented by the Marquess of Hartington, son and heir of the leading local aristocrat, the Duke of Devonshire. The first and last - time the voters rebelled was to return one Charlie White as a Common Wealth in 1944 and as a Labour candidate the following year.

Since then an unbroken line of Tories has commuted to Westminster from this spectacularly beautiful area of the Derbyshire Peaks which, in the last boundary redistribution, acquired Belper, represented for 25 years by Harold Wilson's deputy, George Brown. Despite this acquisition Labour could still attract only 17.1 per cent of the vote at the 1983 general election compared with the

Liberals' 27.1 per cent (14,370), and the Conservatives' 55.9 per cent (29,695).

While the Ryedale by-election is occasioned by the death of the MP, John Spence, West Derbyshire is vacant because Matthew Farris, the young Tory incumbent since 1979, is leaving to take first the Chiltern Hundreds, which is standard practice for a resigning MP, and then the Walden Millions, which is not. His salary for fronting the influential Weekend World on Sundays is rumoured to be some six times that of an MP.

His successor designate, Patrick McLoughlin, is quite as unexpected as the Peak District scenery - a lifelong Conservative supporter and, as a former underground mine worker at Littleton Colliery near Cannock, a member of the NUM. Contrary to popular opinion, the 27-year-old McLoughlin argues, miners generally are right-wing. "They might vote Labour, but you ask them what they think on issues like defence, disarmament, law and order and immigration, and you will find that the replies will be a world away from Labour policy. They are Tories really, it's just that they don't realize it."

Many of McLoughlin's constituents remain uncertain how they will vote. Although he should have no trouble mustering a handsome majority there is disaffection among most age groups, with a distinct possibility that the Alliance candidate will pick up votes both from traditional Conservative as well as Labour supporters.

Hazel, wife of a funeral director, says: "I'm undecided, but a few things have shaken me. I don't think the whole truth was told about the Westland business, for example. I don't agree with everything Mrs Thatcher does, but at least she's not guilty of giving in." While West Derbyshire is all hills and jagged cliffs, Ryedale has its share of flatlands, traversed at leisure by the broad ribbon of the River Derwent, which meanders between sedate stone market towns like Malton and Norton. For many years Ryedale was held by the Turton family, the last parliamentary scion of which sat for 29 years from 1945 to 1979. Labour's 1983 showing, here was even more dismal than in West Derbyshire, with only 10.3 per cent of the vote (5,816) against the Liberals' 30.5 per cent (17,170) and the

Conservatives' 59.2 per cent (33,312).

One crucial factor here is Mrs Elizabeth Shiels, the strong Liberal-Alliance candidate well known as a local councillor. She, more than the party itself, is proving a powerful magnet for the undecided. In the words of Jose, a middle-aged housewife: "I've always voted Conservative but for the by-election, it will be the Alliance for me - partly because of the candidate. I remember going to a meeting at a school where she was speaking. The former



MP, John Spence, was there as well. He was very disrespectful to her and said he wouldn't sit on the same platform. I think all the sixth form at that school will be voting Alliance."

There is a perceptible shift to the centre among the young of the constituency, many of them first-time voters.

In terms of sheer acreage, the local government district of Ryedale is the largest in England, and the new parliamentary constituency takes in almost the whole of that district while also stretching westwards to Easingwold in the Vale of York and eastwards to Filey on the Scarborough coast - a distance of about 50 miles. Like West Derbyshire it claims some of the finest scenery in England (if you like that sort of thing), taking in a swathe of the brooding and treeless North York Moors. Again like West Derbyshire, it has to make an accommodation between the always incompatible interests of tourism and agriculture.

In Ryedale housing, owner-occupation is 10 per cent higher than the national average at 63.5 per cent, while unemployment, at 4.7 per cent, is little more than

half the national figure. Agriculture, manufacturing and catering account between them for the lion's share of the jobs, with the first running at 10 per cent of the labour force, five times higher than the national average.

This whole great ramp of central Yorkshire is a scene of small but gathering change. Farming and its related manufacturing industries may still hold sway, what with the bacon and sausage factories at Norton and the Westlins hot dog plant at Amotherby, but there is also a growing influx, abetted by the district and county councils, of new industrial estates and high-tech operations, notably at Malton, Pickering and Clifton. And at Swinton Grange there is already a company called Spectra Tek making computerized equipment for the monitoring of flow gauges. Many of the new firms are offshoots of larger and more entrenched ones, such as Silingsby Engineering at Kirbymoorside.

Where Ryedale has to square the rival demands of tractor and trekker, West Derbyshire's authorities have their own set of pitfalls among the extractive industries, most of whose activity is carried on within the boundaries of the

National Park. Once a lead-mining area, the northern sector of the constituency now produces limestone, fluorapatite and barytes for the construction, chemical and oil industries. With a highly motivated environmental lobby both nationally and locally, all parliamentary candidates can expect a stern host of questioning on this clear conflict of interests. The not entirely vacuous joke going around the constituency's second largest town of Malton at present runs that the successful campaigner will be the one whose legs best bear the strain of the streets' uncompromising gradients.

The other centres of national repute and local pride are Ashbourne, Bakewell and Hartington - one for its water, one for its puddings and one for its Siltons. All three enjoy more recognition than the Tory miner who would represent their interests, but all that could change in the next few weeks.

Alan Franks

Bodley loses its head

Devastating news for the Bodley Head: although it has not yet been announced, the publisher of such giants as Graham Greene, Muriel Spark, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and William Trevor - which was due to celebrate its centenary next July - is to merge with its bigger brother, Jonathan Cape. Yesterday a distressed spokesman at Bodley Head said the merger had been caused because of "financial reasons" necessitating redundancies in both companies, but stressed that the house would retain its imprint - "Our authors would not contemplate anything else". Chairman Max Reinhardt has agreed to merge virtually every department within the company: production, publicity, rights and copyright editing. The news comes only weeks after I announced the takeover of Lord Forte's publishing empire, Sidgwick and Jackson, by Macmillan.

Extra, extra-dition

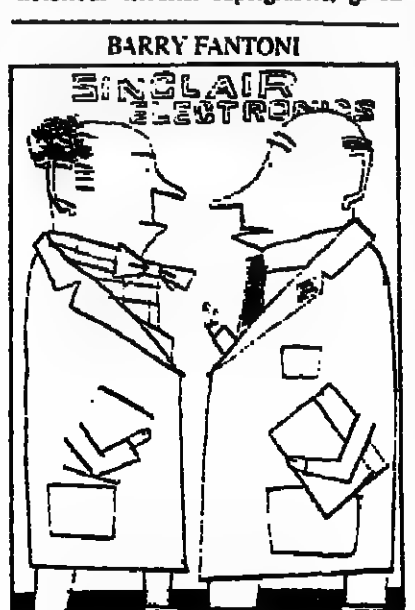
The embarrassing muddle surrounding the abortive arrest of IRA suspect Evelyn Glenholmes becomes instantly comprehensible on reading the latest Home Office law book, written for the guidance of local magistrates. It contains 41 "substantive errors" and a lengthy addendum correcting these in the first print run of 40,000. The book, *The Sentence of the Court*, is circulated to all 26,000 magistrates and is selling like hot cakes to bench and judiciary. "The proof errors are indeed unfortunate," said a Home Office spokesman.

Grassroots

Refugee Royal Ulster Constabulary families, bombed out of their homes in the wave of loyalist attacks, should not inquire too closely about the history of



their new digs. The Northern Ireland authorities have offered them married quarters inside the secure-perimeter Army's Palace Barracks, four miles from Belfast. Previous occupants have been notorious terrorist supergrasses, given



"Very hush-hush. He's inventing a computer that tells him how many more duff ideas there are"

safe accommodation before being shipped abroad with new identities. They include IRA defectors Christopher Black and Robert Lean - who quickly repented of his decision and escaped back to West Belfast in his RUC minder's car - and Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force murderer Joe Bennett. Sweet dreams, folks.

QED

Enoch Powell is in fine form in an interview just published in the *Federation of Conservative Students* rag, *New Agenda*. Q: You have been labelled anti-American. Do you accept the label? A: Most people are. The only change is that it has become a term of abuse. Q: Why in particular are you anti-American? A: Well, I just don't like America, or Americans. It is like saying you like sugar in your tea. *De gustibus non est disputandum.*

Back burner

A TV advertisement starring Clive James standing next to a Yorkshire pudding, from which a Yorkshire terrier's head protrudes, has been banned by the IBA on grounds of taste. The ad was intended to promote the *Observer*, for which James is a columnist, and carried the words "Instead of Yorkshire pudding, do something different." The IBA tell me it feared it would prove distasteful to all the Barbara Woodhouses. The *Observer* duly produced a tasteful substitute, but disaster struck again: LWT decided to ban it, saying James cannot appear in a commercial on the same night as his new Saturday chat show. As a result, the *Observer* has had to shelve its £250,000 James promotion. All embarrassing for Roger Harrison, who is both chief executive of the *Observer* and an LWT director.

PHS

John Woodcock

Self-inflicted wounds

Port of Spain

In the past two or three weeks West Indian newspapers have frequently carried photographs of former England batsmen out here for the cricket. Yesterday it was the rubicund face of Colin Milburn that decorated the back page of the *Trinidad Guardian*. The captions are much the same. This time it was: "Could Milburn's smile mean that he feels he could handle the West Indian bowling better than England's current crop of batsmen are doing?"

It so happens that Milburn might well have done so. As a fearless hooker and cutter of the ball he might even have enjoyed the challenge, and I can think of few batsmen of whom that could be said.

To put it more evocatively, how would the great Australian Don Bradman have coped? With an average in test cricket of 99.94, he was the most prodigious run-making machine the game has known. The other day he presented to an Adelaide museum the placard from a London evening paper of the 1930s which carried the two words "HE'S OUT". That was the extent to which he dominated every match in which he played.

In 1932-33, in an attempt to subjugate Bradman, England devised body-line bowling, a ruthless method of attack aimed more at the batsman than the stumps. The result? Bradman's average was cut from 139 - when the two sides had met in 1930 - to a mere 56. And body-line was undoubtedly less remorseless than the present West Indian attack. Let there be no mistake about it: at Kingston, Jamaica, in the first Test match of this tour, played on a badly

prepared pitch, no batsman in the world - in this or any other age - could have expected to escape from facing the four West Indian fast bowlers with his nerve unaffected, despite all the armour worn today.

There is talk of arranging for this time next year a short series of matches between the West Indies and the Rest of the World. If one snag in the way of it is the crowded international programme, another would almost certainly be the reluctance of many leading batsmen to subject themselves unnecessarily to a battering from Marshall, Patterson and the rest. West Indies would start as favourites to win, at any rate on the type of pitches which put such a premium on various fast bowling and with Ruffery's rules applied as to what is allowed in the way of short-pitched bowling.

It should be clear from this that David Gower's side has faced a formidable and at times dangerous task. I saw recently that Jeff Dujon, the West Indian wicket-keeper, was critical of the methods being used by England's batsmen. He thought they should take a leaf out of New Zealand's book by "getting into line". In theory, of course, Dujon is right, but the fact remains that Gower's only series in the West Indies with a badly broken arm. Later this year England go to Australia where their technical shortcomings will be less ruthlessly exposed. They will find cricket rather fun again, and the shattered noses, fractured thumbs and disintegration of this tour will have had time to mend.

I shall enjoy that, but only if the lessons of the last few depressing weeks have been absorbed. There may be no

adequate way of preparing in advance for a tour of the West Indies, because the game that is to be played is played nowhere else. Indoor nets are not enough, nor physical jerks. At the same time, in many respects the England side has brought the troubles upon itself. Their practising has been hopelessly inadequate and their training nothing like as hard as their opponents', and for that it is no good blaming, as they do, the facilities. Much more imagination could and should have been shown in making the best of what has been available, or finding something better. Geoff Boycott did it when he was here for a couple of months.

This is something like the 30th tour I have reported in the past 36 years, and never have I seen such a lack of what the modern player so prides himself on possessing - professionalism. That Tim Robinson can lie for hours in the baking sun by the hotel swimming pool on the eve of a test match, his energy being sapped by the minute, is beyond comprehension. Why was he not working on the obvious batting flaw which has been his undoing? That Gower could go sailing when England were losing their opening match, or that Neil Foster could bring himself to saunter off for golf and others could go to the beach instead of when they had done nothing for several days after the loss of the third test match, is lamentable.

It has seemed at times as though discipline and firm leadership are considered to be of no account. In fact, they were never more needed. At the same time, I think even Bradman would have struggled for runs.



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LAND OF SMILES

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japan's prime minister, is anxious to please — or at least appease — his free world trading partners. Nothing could be more embarrassing than for the host nation to find next month's economic summit in Tokyo dominated by more querulous European and North American threats over Japan's still-rising trade surplus. He would much prefer some mutual back-slapping over inflation, falling interest rates and currency adjustments to prepare the ground for worthy sentiments on financial help for the third world — the new focus of Japanese foreign policy as the second largest economy becomes the world's largest creditor nation. The United States and Western Europe will not easily be satisfied however. The most important condition for reducing Japan's surpluses and its dependence on export growth has been put in place by the 30 per cent rise of the yen against the dollar. But the effects will not show through in Japan's trade figures nearly fast enough to satisfy its critics. Improving terms of trade and falling oil import costs will boost the immediate surplus. In any case, Europe and North America have become convinced that Japan's competitive success stems ultimately from fundamental but somehow unfair features of its economic structure that must be changed to overcome political strains on trade. In response, Mr Nakasone has produced a series of packages that have yet to deliver. Official non-tariff barriers have followed formal tariffs into the dustbin. Export

promotion agencies have switched to import promotion, defence spending is being stepped up, the financial system liberalised. Japanese companies have built factories abroad where they used to export. Yet still Japan has conquered more export markets while manufactured imports have failed to flood in, leaving the Europeans and Americans more frustrated.

The report of the special committee of establishment figures under former Bank of Japan governor Mr Haruo Maekawa, now issued for maximum public relations effect in front of the summit, presents the most comprehensive proposals so far to substitute consumption for exports as the engine of the economy, even if few of its details are new. They seek to stimulate home demand by government spending, by removing controls on housing and construction, and above all by encouraging Japanese people to save less, work less and spend more, particularly on imports.

The importance of this report lies more in its reception at home than in summit public relations. For it gives the backing for Mr Nakasone or his successor to push through policies that run counter to the values of hard work and thrift instilled in Japanese society since the Meiji revolution. The message is as bizarre to the average Japanese as it would to Britons used to quite different exhortations.

Some features are clearly more practical than others. Increased spending on housing and public works is overdue. Taxing returns on small sav-

ings would be deeply unpopular. The more positive changes are in any case likely to come about as a result of yen revaluation. But they will take time. A recent long-term forecast, anticipating the change of tack, concluded that Japan would reach trade balance by around 1995.

Even then, Europeans may be disappointed at the lack of growth of manufactured exports to Japan, unless there is a sudden mass conversion to learning the Japanese language. Demands for Japan to quantify targets for manufactured imports may well continue to go unanswered. They could be met in the short run only by increased state intervention and public spending. It may be no bad thing, however, for some of the demands of Japan's summit partners to be left unsatisfied. The call for Japan to fall in step with the mature economies of Europe and North America owes more to the imbalance between Japan's economic strength and its political weakness than to sense.

Japan has succeeded to excess by sticking to the Victorian virtues of Samuel Smiles that its citizens absorbed a hundred years ago, but which have been cast aside in Europe in favour of consuming on credit at rising interest rates at the expense of investment and employment. These are just the virtues needed in poor countries if they are to develop. If Japan should adopt Western ways, there are plenty of others adopting the Japanese way to discomfit the successors of the summiters in Tokyo.

CUTS WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

History repeats. In 1981, the University Grants Committee did what it does well, making resource judgements based on academic criteria with faint reference to politicians' (and taxpayers') priorities. It delivered a reduction in real spending, primarily by cutting the number of student places. It so happened that the way it made cuts also made a good deal of nonsense of ministers' brave talk of a switch from social studies and humanities into applied science and technology. Now the nonsense looks to have happened again. This time the National Advisory Body on Local Authority Higher Education, a body parallel in function to the UGC, has delivered cuts in spending by cutting places. And where is education to cease? Wolverhampton Polytechnic is to eliminate engineering so much for Black Country economic regeneration. Design education is to end at Teeside Polytechnic. Civil engineering is to go at Sunderland.

Of course no single degree should be sacrosanct. Of course there must be some

academic logic behind the NAB's decisions. What dismay is, first and foremost, the necessity of substantial reductions in places at all. Demand for places in higher education remains high. To cut places strikes at opportunity. Worse there appears to be no scheme, either by region or by subject, connecting areas of nation to economic prospect or (with reference to courses in fine art) the culture of the nation.

In the nature of the game some of these cuts have been selected for maximum public impact. Mr Christopher Price, director of Leeds Polytechnic, will naturally make much of proposals to close the department with such sculptors as Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth in its pedigree. And there will be many who will wonder how the government can countenance the closure of social services training courses when it has accepted a spate of recent recommendations for enhancement of training in such specialties as child care and the prevention of abuse.

The response to all this is not bland protestation against any and all reductions in public outlays on higher

education. On the contrary it is to take issue with the assumptions regularly made by the National Advisory Body as by the University Grants Committee (and regularly accepted by the government) that it is student numbers that must bear the brunt of spending constraint.

The UGC and now NAB have been allowed to assert that there is an irreducible minimum cost per student. The arithmetic is simple. Unit costs cannot be reduced, so to deliver a Treasury-ordered aggregate, across-the-board cuts in places must follow. An alternative higher education policy would have examined much more critically the "unit of resource" argument. That would have led to questioning some deeply-entrenched assumptions: about academics' use of their time, and the balance of research and teaching.

They would have been hard questions, but asking them could have prevented the astonishing sight of a nation that relies for well-being on the qualities of its people cutting the provision for intellectual and practical attainment.

A CASE FOR COMMERCIAL COMPETITION

The Cabinet committee responsible for allocating the £240 million contract on two auxiliary oil vessels, for which both Swan Hunter of Tyneside and Harland and Wolff of Belfast have submitted tenders, yesterday postponed a decision on the matter. Ministers are now expected to take a further two weeks to make their choice.

It is a prudent delay. Swan Hunter's coup in the early hours of yesterday morning, in which the company's executives themselves launched the frigate Coventry, thereby beating a strike and meeting the Navy's deadline, had created an atmosphere in which the proper commercial comparisons seemed unseasonably cold. It evoked both nostalgia for the escape of HMS Amethyst along the Yangtze and Thatcherite admiration for the dash and spirit of the new entrepreneurs of privatization.

If the government proved capable of rising above these appeals to its sensibilities (and, perhaps more important, to the sensibilities of its supporters), the political significance of both shipyards could hardly escape it. Both are in areas of distressingly high unemployment. But as the Chairman of Swan Hunter pointed out in a letter to this newspaper, unemployment on the North-East is undiluted, the seemingly

endless crisis in Ulster, currently dramatized by the attacks on the RUC, has eroded public support for measures to alleviate economic problems there. The name of De Lorean reminds us that there has, after all, been a plethora of such measures in the last few years. If it were simply a choice between assisting Tyneside or Belfast, popular sympathy would lean in favour of Tyneside.

But, as the managements of both shipyards concede, awarding a defense contract should not be a matter of charity. It should aim at obtaining the best product at the cheapest price. That means, in practice, a system of competitive tendering — namely, choosing the company which puts in the lowest tender while it also meets the specifications laid down by the Ministry of Defence.

In this instance, Harland and Wolff has put in what is at face value the lowest tender. Swan Hunter advances several arguments — some substantial, some less so — to urge its rejection nonetheless.

The company asserts, for instance, that the Ministry should rely on companies like itself with a recent, proven track record in naval shipbuilding. But there would be little point in competitive tendering if the traditional suppliers were automatically chosen. New entrants into the market deserve an even chance.

Swan Hunter also argues that its expectation of gaining this contract was included in the terms on which the present management arranged its buy-out. But that claim treats the contract as a disguised subsidy — which is utterly inconsistent with Swan Hunter's main argument that Harland and Wolff's tender benefits from the general subsidy of £37 million it has received over the last 11 months.

Swan Hunter concedes that a team of independent accountants has certified that their rival's tender price has been sealed off from this general subsidy. It goes on to make the point, however, that the nationalised shipyard will inevitably call upon the taxpayer to meet its losses if the project overruns. There is, in short, an implicit subsidy in any tender from a nationalised industry.

That argument is not without merit. It is, indeed, the main argument for privatization. For as long as nationalised industries are with us, however, the government cannot automatically reject their tendering for particular contracts on the general grounds that they might overrun.

What it can — and in this case should — do is satisfy itself that the company can perform the contract successfully by a rigorous and open investigation and set real penalties for non-fulfilment. Having done that, it should award the contract on plain commercial grounds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How proposed poly axe will fall

From the Secretary of State for Education and Science

Sir, Today's front page report about cuts in places for students at polytechnics proposed by the National Advisory Body (NAB) gave an incomplete account of the position and will cause an unnecessary degree of alarm among students and their parents.

Your Education Correspondent wrote that "the cuts result from a decision taken by the committee of the NAB". No such decisions have been taken. At this stage the committee, which is chaired by my ministerial colleague, Mr George Walden, MP, and whose majority membership is representative of local authorities, has done no more than make a single guess about the likely level of public funding in 1987-88. Decisions on the level of funding will not be taken by the Government until later this year.

Nevertheless, on the basis of its single guess, the NAB committee has instructed its staff to make proposals keeping the number of student places within a total that would involve no fall in resources per student. The NAB will not advise me until much later this year whether the number of places should be reduced and if so how this might be done by institution and by subject. Decisions on these matters are for the Secretary of State and not the NAB.

There are three points I must make about the approach favoured by the local authority members of the NAB committee. First, I have repeatedly suggested to the NAB that it should not plan on the basis of a single assumption about support from public funds. Of course I acknowledge the consequent difficulty in planning, but it is no more than common sense in such circumstances for any organisation, public or private, to consider a number of possibilities. This NAB has chosen not to do.

Secondly, there is room for substantial difference of view on whether and to what extent the

number of student places needs to be reduced even if NAB's assumption about public funding proves correct. The polytechnics and colleges have done a magnificent job in the 1980s. They now provide for 27 per cent more students than in 1979 and are more cost-effective than ever before — the number of students per academic member of staff (SSR) has risen from 8.2 to 10.8.

There is evidence that young people and their parents increasingly recognise that the polytechnics offer high quality vocational courses, especially in business studies and engineering. However on the NAB's own reckoning there is still room for the polytechnics and other local authority colleges to take more students overall without increasing the number of staff (NAB's target SSR is 12.0:1).

Thirdly, the polytechnic and college lecturers were awarded last year a 7.25 per cent pay increase by the local authorities. This increase was well above the level of inflation and was awarded on the understanding that the lecturers' union would discuss changes in working practice that could lead to significant efficiency gains. I do not see how the NAB committee, which is largely representative of the employers of these staff, can so readily ignore the contribution which is to be expected from these discussions.

I regret that you, Sir, should have published a one-sided report. It does no service to the polytechnics and other colleges who had been so successful in taking large numbers of additional students and in showing enterprise in developing courses and activities of other kinds which are of service to the economy. Yours sincerely, KEITH JOSEPH, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, SE1, April 8.

Shipyard duel

From Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin

Sir, Anyone who has the country's maritime interests at heart must feel dismayed at the prospect of either Harland and Wolff or Swan Hunter being severely damaged, or even destroyed, by the handling of a defence contract for two auxiliary oil replenishment vessels (AORs).

Both companies are major national assets and the rigid adherence to current defence contract policy could cost the country not only one or two highly talented design teams and workforces in this area, but also the basis for any future competition.

Musical excellence

From Mr Peter Heyworth

Sir, In his admirable piece (April 1) on the astonishing odium incurred by the Royal Academy of Music for its plan to establish itself as "a centre of excellence", Bernard Levin has understated his case.

The plan to set up a salaried orchestra in London, such as whose standards might stand comparison with those in Chicago, Vienna, Berlin, etc, did not founder because the money was not available. It came to nothing because the Arts Council could not persuade any of the four London orchestras to accept it.

The fuss about the RAM is a further example of our current

dedication to mediocrity and "fair shares for all". Japan lives on its industrial excellence, the German standard of living is based in part on the excellence of German cars. The French not only produce excellent perfumes and wine, but even have the effrontery to take pride in such products.

How, I wonder, are 50 million people to be maintained at a standard of life which we have come to regard as God-given, on a small island that is dedicated to mediocrity? The state of our car exports offers one answer to that question; the condition of our inner cities another.

Yours truly, PETER HEYWORTH, 32 Bryanston Square, W1.

Hours not theirs

From Mr Basil Boothroyd

Sir, I have just been told by British Telecom's speaking clock that at the third stroke the time "from Accruster" will be 6.55 precisely. This seems to be new and awful and I don't want to know that everything from cricket to symphony concerts is now a commercial badwagon, though I see that we've stuck with it if we want any sport or music. But time belongs to us all.

It is not for watchmakers to cry their wares at us six times a minute day and night. It doesn't.

Bristol 'intolerance'

From Dr Peter W. Thomas

Sir, As you observed in your leader of March 28, it is indeed disturbing that "The Association of University Teachers has been so slow to comment publicly on the Vincent case". Disturbing, but not surprising, I fear.

For the AUT is simply not (I say it sadly as a member of over 20 years' standing) what once it was — a decent, dull, reticent, responsible, sound professional body through and through. Politicisation by activists, aspiring downward to trade unionism and exploiting legitimate concerns on the way, has taken its toll.

Today the message from HQ is not "long live John Vincent" but "welcome to Wapping"! Those three little words are, of course, not the AUT's; but by sending to each of its members a propaganda leaflet of that title published by Sogat, NGA, AUEW and NUJ, it has publicly endorsed and reiterated them.

Our secretariat, albeit by proxy, plainly wishes us, in insistent capitals, to "boycott" *The News of the World*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Times*, and, of course, *The Sun*, with Professor Vincent and his columns to boot.

It is not that the AUT has nothing to say, simply that it is content to let Sogat's slogans speak for it. That, in the aftermath of the vicious attempts to silence the professor in his lecture theatre, is in all conscience a disgrace to the profession.

come from anybody. Some say there's no such thing. Time, as we call it, stands still, and we people just whizz past. Let Accruster mind their own business. Though I suppose they're doing that, damn their self-promoting mainstays, quartz and chips. And damn British Telecom too, while I'm at it.

Yours sincerely, BASIL BOOTHROYD, Peeters, Church Street, Cuckfield, Sussex, April 4.

But there is more, and worse, to follow. The self-same number of our *Bulletin* that brought the Wapping leaflet to our desks vehemently reprimands the Secretary of State for Education as a man who in his thinking about tenure "ignores the question of academic freedom".

Effrontery is, in the circumstances, the only word for that line of argument. Nor is it very bright, just when events at Bristol reveal at a stroke that tenure is itself no guarantee of academic freedom of speech. All the tenure in the world will be worthless if academics, of all people, permit "agit-prop" to become the order of the day.

Happily there is still, as you imply, an abundance of good old-fashioned academic tolerance and disinterestedness in our universities — witness the failure of the recent strike ballot to command more than 38 per cent support among AUT members. That, naturally, was interpreted as a mandate for "action" — another reminder that it is simply no longer safe to assume that the AUT speaks in good faith for the majority of its members, let alone the profession as a whole. That silence which disturbed you has, I conclude, spoken volumes.

Yours faithfully, PETER W. THOMAS, University College, Cardiff, Department of English, PO Box 78, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, March 28.

UK concern on ADR tax effects

From the Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries and others

Sir, Over the past three weeks since the Budget, you have published a number of relevant reports on the concern felt in the City and by industry at the Chancellor's intention to levy a tax of 5 per cent on the creation of new American depositary receipts (ADRs) and similar securities.

We write now, as Parliament reassembles, to confirm the validity of your reporting, certainly as far as our own companies are concerned: indeed we have ample evidence that our concerns and objects are shared by numerous other major British industrial companies and by the financial communities on both sides of the Atlantic and elsewhere.

It now appears that the tax is being levied not to raise revenue (there is general agreement that payments will be negligible) but with the aim of bringing "lost" stock exchange business back to London by ensuring that all trade in British equities takes place here. If this is true then the legislation is essentially nationalist and protectionist, the very reverse of the policy needed if London is to prosper as a major financial centre, post "big bang".

Without detracting from the importance of this argument against the Chancellor's proposal, we summarise below a number of our personal concerns at the way in which the tax is likely to impact on British industry.

1. For reasons which have already been well rehearsed in your columns, the effect of the tax will be to close to British companies the large foreign investment markets to which they have increasingly looked for financial support in recent years.

2. The purchase of ADRs and similar securities in British companies by foreign nationals constitutes overseas investment in the UK. Under the new legislation this process will reverse with adverse economic consequences for industry and for the country.

It is an illusion to believe that any significant increase in volume of foreign investment will be made directly through the London market: there are several technical factors which will prevent this happening.

3. The direct use of equity by British companies making foreign acquisitions will involve payment of the tax, making it more difficult for our industry to develop new markets for its products.

4. In foreign markets, especially in the USA, investors are frequently customers. Loss of liquidity in the ADR market will make exporting of the tax, making it more difficult for our industry to develop new markets for its products.

The introduction of the tax will thus provide both a financial and a commercial advantage to the foreign competitors of British industry. We believe that the arguments against the legislation are overwhelming and, insofar as the matter is non-party, ask for the support of all members of Parliament to persuade the Chancellor to withdraw it. Yours faithfully, J. HARVEY-JONES, Chairman, Imperial Chemical Industries, R. J. AGNEW, Chairman, Consolidated Gold Fields, P. G. BOSONNET, Deputy Chairman, BOC Group, ADRIAN CADBURY, Chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, J. L. EGAN, Chairman, Jaguar Cars, P. GIROLAMI, Chairman, Glaxo Holdings, HANSON, Chairman, Hanson Trust, CHRISTOPHER HOGG, Chairman, Reuters Holdings, P. HOLMES, Chairman, Shell Transport and Trading Company, GEORGE JEFFERSON, Chairman, British Telecommunications, A. I. LENTON, Chairman, Bowater Industries, c/o Imperial Chemical House, Millbank, SW1, April 7.

Changes at ITN
From the Editor of ITN
Sir, Flash it may be (Diary, April 8), but news it is not. No decision whatever has been taken about what job Jon Snow will be invited to do when he is succeeded in Washington by Tim Ewart. Yours sincerely, DAVID NICHOLAS, Editor, Independent Television News, ITN House, 48 Wells Street, W1, April 8.

Back to school

From Dr Bill Holmes

Sir, Teachers accuse the public of unfairly equating school vacations with their personal holidays, a charge they deny. Do not the profession now have an opportunity to prove their assertion by undertaking that necessary training for any new examination will be done outside term time?

They might be able to reclaim some of the public's respect, steal a march on the Government, and demonstrate the consistency of that particular argument. Yours faithfully, BILL HOLMES, 4 Ruscliffe Avenue, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham, April 4.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 9 1906

Africa in the 19th and early 20th centuries was a field for exploitation by the European powers. Morocco had come under the influence of France, a situation accepted by Britain in return for France's non-intervention in Egypt. A third party, Germany, felt that it should have an interest in Morocco and arranged for a conference to be held to discuss the country's government and economy. It opened in January, 1906 and closed with France's "special position" being recognised. Germany's hopes of any gains came to naught. Our Special Correspondent was Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace.

CLOSE OF THE MOROCCO CONFERENCE

AGREEMENT SIGNED. (FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

ALGERIA, APRIL 7.

At last the interminable Conference is at an end, and sincere mutual congratulation is now the order of the day. At 11 o'clock this morning the delegates met as usual in the red hall of the municipal buildings, and for the first time a few favoured outsiders, including the Governor of Gibraltar, had the honour of being present. At a long table covered with red cloth instead of the diplomatic green sat the 25 representatives of 13 Powers, including four Moors clad in spotless white garments and headed by the venerable Mahomed el Turres, who, though a Moroccan official and comparatively poor, enjoys a well-earned reputation for unimpeachable honesty.

After a few introductory remarks by the president and other customary formalities the Act General embodying the results of the Conference was read by one of the Spanish secretaries. It is a long printed document covering 22 folio pages, and is divided into seven chapters, which contain, not a scheme of general reforms for the decrepit Moroccan Empire, as is often erroneously supposed, but merely some modest proposals for the development of European commerce at eight open seaports. My apprehension as to its containing typographical errors prove to be not unfounded. One of these raising a fine for smuggling from 2,000 pesetas (£37) to 5,000 pesetas (£142) was considered so serious that an erratum had to be inserted in manuscript at the end of the document, the trivial mistakes in spelling being left uncorrected. Traces of haste are likewise visible in style, and altogether it is not a document of which diplomats of the old school would be proud. The only thing which reminds one of the old school are the traditional consecrated formulas such as the opening "Au nom de Dieu tout puissant." For its defects I hasten to add that the secretaries are not to blame. The cause, as already explained in previous telegrams, is to be sought in the irrepressible impetuosity of the delegates to escape from their Moorish captivity and spend at least a portion of Holy Week in the bosom of their families.

Thus ended the memorable Conference, and, notwithstanding many hours of impatience and anxiety, it seems, on the whole, to have left agreeable impressions, for at the moment of departure every one present appeared anxious to secure a tangible little souvenir of it by appropriating, with the President's gracious permission, a penholder, blotter, calendar or some such thing of trivial value which had been used during the deliberations. What was considered the first prize was an ordinary paper calendar bearing the date Saturday, the 7th of April, 1906, on which all the delegates kindly inscribed their signatures.

Now a very few words regarding the results of the Conference. In my telegram of April 1, at the moment when an agreement on the main points had been attained, I transmitted the first impressions of the delegates and promised to transmit in a few days their more matured views when the results had been carefully examined and probed. I am now in a position to state that between first impressions and matured views there is very little difference. My apprehensions that the unconcealed joy of the delegates at the prospect of a speedy release from their long Moorish captivity might have made them a little too optimistic have happily not been realised. They still think that, considering all the circumstances of the case, no one has much reason to complain.

So far, therefore, as the Moroccan question in the narrower sense is concerned the Conference has been a decided success, though we cannot help feeling that the machinery employed to attain the object in view has been somewhat out of proportion to the requirements of the situation. In diplomacy, as in ordinary life, the employment of a steam-hammer for cracking a walnut implies a lamentable waste of energy.

If the whole truth must be told, his Sheriaten Majesty has been unceremoniously used as a pawn on the European chessboard. This has been latterly more and more clearly recognised here.

Return of Eros

From Mr L. M. Cornwall

Sir, Surely Eros would not position himself firmly on the ground, let alone lightly on a pedestal, to aim his arrow. The god of love would be in free fall, his limbs not subject to such restraints, and it seems to me that the statue represents this conception admirably. Yours truly, L. M. CORNWALL, 4 High Street, Dunblane, Perthshire.

THE ARTS

Television
Wicked
waste

Last year in Britain three thousand million oranges were destroyed. We also got rid of one thousand tons of cauliflower. And over-produced wheat by seven million tons. In *O'Donnell Investigates the Food Business* (BBC2) these figures were delivered in tones of appropriate outrage.

Not only does this country, and the European Economic Community, over-produce food, it also subsidises the over-production under the Common Agriculture Policy. Thus, although we have a surplus of four million tons a year, we also have subsidies running at £1 million a day.

Dr Michael O'Donnell called these figures obscene and criminal, which indeed they are. However, he was not concerned that this abundance of food while half the rest of the world starves, but that the food is wasted. The food is wasted as a result of the subsidies for agriculture. The argument was that fat and sugar are cheap and heavily promoted, while poultry, cereals and polyunsaturated fats are more expensive than they should be.

The programme was part of BBC's health campaign and arguments were passionate and convincing. One or two facts were over-stated. Dr O'Donnell did not mention the diets of other nations in the Community; nor did he point out that the subsidised healthy foods are still very much cheaper in Britain than those which farmers were paid to produce.

Marco Polo (Channel 4) is another big-budget epic produced by Vincenzo Labella. It is marginally more exciting than *AD*. It looks more attractive and covers ground less familiar than that of the Bible stories. However, *Marco Polo* shares some of *AD*'s faults — the dialogue is excruciating, the characterisation is vestigial and the mélange of British and American accents spoken by prominent citizens of Venice is irritating.

Later episodes of this story were shot on location in China but, if the exterior scenes were worthwhile, the interior landscape was miserably poor. Young Marco was portrayed as a pretty young obsessed with his absent father; whatever qualities the great 13th-century explorer may have had to make his 17-year journey to the unknown East successful were not indicated.

Celia Brayfield

Riccardo Muti (right), in London for three Philharmonia concerts, talks to John Higgins about his first season as La Scala's music director and the theatre's new recording contract with EMI

Homecoming for a new era

On December 7, the immovable opening date of the Scala season, Riccardo Muti conducts his first opera as music director of the Milan house. The work is *Nabucco*, and it has been very carefully chosen.

It was Verdi's first major success at La Scala and with it came the start of a new era for him. Muti has of course had his own Milan successes already, not the least of which was the *Ernani* a few seasons back which he rescued from a wretched production and turned into a triumph. But he does anticipate a new era both for himself and the theatre. "I'm not arriving carrying an aura about me that everything will alter. In a way I'm coming home. But there will be changes."

One of these is a new relationship between EMI and La Scala announced this week. Through the three-year sponsorship, with an option on two further years, of EMI (Agip), Italy's state oil company, there will be a series of recordings with Scala forces, some made live (as in the case of *Ernani*) and others in the studio. The first of these is *La forza del destino*, with Freni, Domingo and Zaccaria. This will be in the studio. Verdi's Requiem is to be recorded in the place where it had its first performance, the Church of San Marco, Milan. The next opera is likely to be Verdi again: *I vespri siciliani*.

At a time when many record companies, despite the success of CD, are cutting back on opera

this represents a major commitment by EMI and ENI over the next few years. But Muti also sees it as a means of re-establishing the past. "I want to get back to the days when Karajan, Serafin, De Sabata and others were making great recordings with La Scala. Also in the theatre I want to create a team around me of young musicians in the way that Toscanini had at his side Votto, Gui and — yes, again — Serafin."

Nabucco will not be on the ENI sponsorship list for the basic reason that Muti has recorded it already and the CD version is due out from EMI later this summer. However it is likely to provide opportunity in plenty for patriotic display on December 7. "Yes, that side is well known enough: Jerusalem versus Babylon representing Italy against the Austrians. But it can be taken too far. A couple of years ago there was a move to establish the chorus 'Va pensiero' as our national anthem. But had anyone really looked at the score? It begins *sotto voce* and when it is all over the High Priest Zaccaria refers to it as 'the lamentation of timorous women'. What sort of anthem is that?"

"No, what I like about *Nabucco* is its fire — it's a storm, it's a tempest. *Ernani* is more refined, the characters are more deeply analyzed, with the exception of Abigaille, the first great soprano role that Verdi created. There is the prototype of Lady

Macbeth, the female who is a combination of *bene e male*."

Dimitrova is the Abigaille and Bruson sings the title role. The producer is Roberto di Simone, who like Muti was born in Naples. Coincidence? Muti choruses: "Roberto is so Neapolitan that by comparison I might have been born in Scandinavia."

Muti's commitments with La Scala, together with his music directorship of the Philadelphia Orchestra, mean that his appearances at foreign opera houses, which are not exactly thick on the ground already, are going to become even rarer in the future. One thought could well be an *Ernani* at Covent Garden towards the end of the decade. Is this a peace-offering in return for his rejection of the post of musical director of the London house?

"No. It is an opera which Covent Garden have asked me to conduct and which hasn't been heard in that house for half a century. I have always regarded Covent Garden as a serious house and I do so still. But I need Italy. If I had said 'Yes' to Covent Garden then I would have been forced to uproot to London and that would not have been in my nature. In Milan I am two hours on the *autostrada* from my home in Ravenna."

"La Scala has come, I hope, at the right time in my career. In 1968 (when Muti was still under 30) I was director of the Maggio Musicale in Florence. We had the chance to chase works that

were out of the ordinary or perhaps only just coming back into fashion. Now, twenty years later, or almost, at the Scala I think there is a chance to establish a true Verdi style just as there is now a new Rossini style, to move the orchestra a step forward, to create a cadre of young Italian singers."

And also possibly to create that rarity at La Scala, a Mozart style. Muti plans a new *Don Giovanni*, directed by Giorgio Strehler and with Thomas Allen in the title role, for 1987 and then has scheduled a month in which the three Da Ponte operas will be seen in repertory.

Muti has been broadening his own repertory at a rapid rate. Scriabin on paper appears to be the new passion: the First Symphony with the Philadelphia is out on EMI this month (EL 27 0270 1) and the Third Symphony was given with the Philharmonia last night. But Muti claims that this devotion goes back to his student days in Vienna when he bought on impulse the scores of all the Scriabin symphonies in a music shop. There remains though one key opera which does not come into the conversation. *Otello* is waiting in the wings, but there is no mention of *Falstaff*.

"*Falstaff*? There are two major works which scare me. The *Missa Solemnis* is one and *Falstaff* is the other. *Falstaff* is a mountain, as far as I am concerned, with its peak way up in the clouds. 'Tutto nel mondo è burla.' How do you do it?"

Theatre
Intellect
against
material
survivalFlight
The Other Place,
Stratford

David Lan's title offers a one-word encapsulation of Jewish history: the Exodus, the diaspora and the migrations of his own characters being successive chapters in the history of a race in constant flight.

In the Piano Concerto No 5, too, there was a similar exuberance, though here it was offset by the more restrained, though still winningly by Radu Lupu's command of a multitude of subtly differentiated keyboard colours. The epic proportions of the "Emperor" were played down, yet there was plenty of drama about, especially in the slow movement's close. Conductor and soloist conspired to lull the senses with barely audible delights, so that Lupu's sudden sweep into a finale that danced like a Viennese waltz even managed to restore the surprise element to this most famous of transitions.

Richard Morrison

Rozario/Troop
Purcell Room

Memories of Patricia Rozario's recent Rodrigo Festival recital were revived on Monday night, as she turned again to three songs by the Spanish composer and two excerpts from his *Quatro madrigales*.

It was a most pleasant sensation of *deja vu*. For one of the most distinctive delights of Rozario's singing is the way in which she plays on the gently shifting timbres of her soprano as on a wind instrument; and the elision of Latin languages in general and Rodrigo's music in particular glory in such treatment. Once

again, virtually unaccompanied, there was her strangely distanced "Cancion de la esposa", again her frolicsome "Esta nina". There was Falala, too, and all the sad irony caught within the caprice of the "Seguidilla murciana" as well as the most soulful, penetrating "Al-se's of pain in "Polo".

This recital focused, too, on Rozario's gracious performing presence: the poise of the slight, ear-clad figure is extended in the simple care she takes in moulding verbal inflection and melody, so telling in her five Ivor Gurney Elizabethan Songs. In Mahler, she held lightly in the palm of her hand the charm, sentiment and naive evocation of two of the *Knaben Wunderhorn* songs, hearing in her imagination, it seemed, the rather less finely observed piano accompaniment of her husband, Mark Troop.

The evening was not without its moments of anxiety. For some time now it has been worrying to watch the weakening of the music at the top of the voice, as if through lack of strong exercise, and with it the inevitable hints of unease in integration. Her Mozart and Schubert in particular, however musically sung, suffered from shaky support: not nerves alone, I think.

Hilary Finch

One oddity of the piece, which spans 50 years in the lives of the wandering Levines, is that it nowhere acknowledges the existence of the state of Israel. The play opens and ends with a Passover dinner, and in 1980 as in 1930 it presents the Jews as a homeless people perpetually journeying towards a destination where their slavery will end.

Even without this strange omission, the play seems curiously detached from the outside world which allegedly is giving the characters such a hard time. You have to consult the programme to discover where and when events are taking place — a necessary procedure, as it opens in Rhodes in the 1930s, then zips back 20 years to Lithuania before winding up in Mugabe's Zimbabwe. Apart from the appearance of two Blacks, it might all be happening in the same country.

The main aim of the piece is to examine three strands of Jewish tradition through the story of one family. Chronologically, it begins with their flight to Africa. There are four of them — two sisters and their husbands — but only three passes. The devoted Isaac and his wife and sister Lily make their escape, leaving Lily's communist-leader husband behind.

The 1930s show the orthodox Isaac coming into conflict with his go-ahead son Mike, who sets up a jeweller's shop and makes his pile, and is

almost ruined by his father's crooked bookkeeping. In the final section we move on to the 1970s, by which time the prosperous Levines are nervously themselves for another flight, and having stormy scenes with their son, a splendid physical specimen desperate to desert from the army and escape the country.

Mr Lan tenaciously pursues his Janus-faced themes of intellect versus material survival and the operation of the family as a haven or a cage: so tenaciously, in fact, that his people have very little life of their own. Each of them is equipped with a particular obsession and a few personal attributes which they flash in sequence like revolving beacons.

They are at once airily removed from life outside and presented at long range as specimens of their inheritance. There are numerous violent rows and physical tussles, but there is not much in the way of revealing human contact. Early in the play Mrs Levine (Dinah Stubb) pounces on her son for stealing biscuits. She then welcomes his girlfriend, inviting her to eat anything she likes while carrying the biscuit-tin back to the cupboard. This tiny, well-prepared comic episode tells you more about her and holds the attention in a way that the shouting matches and trades on Jewish identity do not.

With the aid of many a long, unfulfilled pause, Howard Davies' production runs to over

three hours and yields some of the most forced and unnatural acting I can recall at this address. Joe Melia lightens the patriarchal Isaac with some nifty dancing and high-speed card-playing, and marvelously embodies the humiliated image of a Zionist trapped on the wrong side. Nicholas Woodson and Gillian Barge play with a rage and energy which at least do full justice to the play's argument.

Irving Wardle

Relatively
Speaking
Greenwich

Two sets, four scenes, four unimpeachably middle-class characters, a plot which runs on low-octane embarrassment: you know where you are with Alan Ayckbourn. *Relatively Speaking*, his first major West End success, here enjoys its first major revival. Alan Strachan's worthy production stays in period (summer 1965), which gives the eye an unexpected shock of recognition in the first scene set of a London bed-sit. It all looks so mid-1960s, so taste-free revivalist.

These intimations of modernity are handsomely crushed by the expository dialogue between the two young lovers, Greg and Ginny — of an age, though years apart in experience — whose month-old relationship is overshadowed by Ginny's former lover,

a much older man. She leaves to spend the day with her parents. Greg, having secured the address of her destination, follows in hot pursuit.

"Good Day Sunshine" gives place to "In an English Country Garden" as the stage revolves and we find ourselves in — yes, a back garden in Bucks, where a childless middle-aged couple, Philip and Sheila, indulge in politely stilted bickering after Sunday breakfast. He has been candidly unfaithful to her; she in compensation has invented her own lover.

Enter young Greg to Sheila, alone, whom he takes to be Ginny's mother. Charmingly tentative, he quite forgets to address her by name. Hedged in by the constraints of English courtesy, she quits her post to ask him who he might be. Philip inevitably takes him to be her lover. Philip (of course) is Ginny's former lover and when she herself arrives by a later train the piece turns into a slow waltz of readjustment, with characters talking of themselves in the hypothetical, ironic third person and with the safety valve of eccentricity called upon whenever complete revelation threatens.

Gwen Watford is perfectly cast as Sheila, and Michael Aldridge's Philip has a nice line in pop-eyed consternation. Felicity Dean as the pneumatic Ginny and Michael Simkins as the obtuse Greg work better when in the company of the old troupers.

Martin Cropper

Dance
The Sons of
Horus
Covent Garden

Injuries and illness prevented some of the expected cast-changes at Covent Garden on Monday, but caused others which had not been foreseen.

The *Sons Of Horus* had a complete new quarter in the title roles, and David Bintley's choreography proved strongly resilient to new interpretations. Simon Rice, predictably, showed a combination of comic flair and swift, bright movement that entirely suited the role of the ape-headed god. Jonathan Cope also proved notable, partnering Lesley

Collier with gentle authority in the main duet and matching her grave seriousness of manner in his brief solo. Bruce Sansom's light, fluent style looked at home in the first of the solos, and Philip Broomhead brought a live athleticism to the last solo, even though not matching Ashley Page's fierceness as the jack-headed deity.

I find that the ballet continues to reveal further wealth of detail, both in Bintley's concept and staging and in Peter McGowan's richly-textured score. With a ballet as familiar as *Birthday Offering* (30 years in the repertory but only 56 performances at Covent Garden — I suppose I must have seen most of them), one has less expectation of new insights, yet they can come serendipitously.

An example at this performance was Ravenna Tucker's taking over the sixth solo: one of the company's smaller dancers in a role made for one of the tallest (Beryl Grey), yet

so assured in technique, so smoothly exact in the many turning steps, that it looked exactly right.

Perhaps similarly courageous casting might benefit other solos, which at present vary too much for comfort in their standard of execution,

with Fiona Chadwick the best and Maria Almeida especially promising. But almost nobody wears André Levassour's ornate costumes with chic: surely their ornamentation and colour should appeal to today's young dancers?

John Percival

Lloyds Bank
Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 11.5 per cent to 11 per cent p.a. with effect from Tuesday, 8 April 1986.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Lloyds Bank Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

The change in Base Rate will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branch of The National Bank of New Zealand Limited.

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No evidence to proceed with JMB charges

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Police officers investigating the affairs of Johnson Matthey Bankers and its collapse announced yesterday that the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that there was no evidence to justify charges on four allegations made by Mr Brian Sedgmore, the Labour MP for Hackney South, on the JMB affair.

The announcement came from the City of London police, whose fraud squad officers began an investigation of JMB last summer. They announced late last year that they had found evidence of fraud involving JMB.

The statement yesterday refers to allegations made by Mr Sedgmore involving Mr Mahmoud Sipra and Mr Michael Hepker, chairman of Sumrie Clothes.

The statement said that the police had made a report to the DPP following allegations made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by Mr Sedgmore.

Motion attacks agents at Lloyd's on funds

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The leading directors of one of the most prominent groups of Lloyd's insurance syndicates, Bellevue, Parry and Raven, were last night accused in a parliamentary motion of diverting funds from syndicate names or members into a trust fund set up for their children.

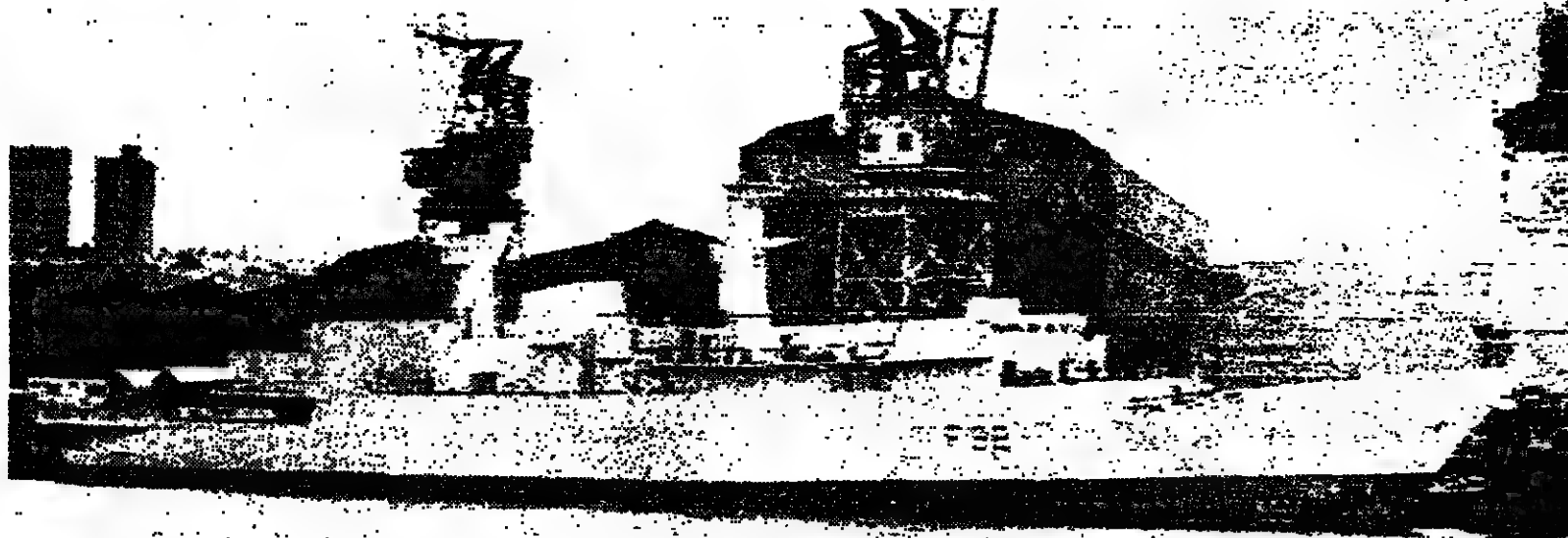
Mr Brian Sedgmore, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, claimed in a Commons motion last night that the Lloyd's authorities should charge the directors of BPR "with a breach of fiduciary duty, notwithstanding the declaration of Arthur Gratant-Bell that if Lloyd's brings down Bellevue, Parry and Raven, he will bring down Lloyd's."

In another motion Mr Sedgmore says that it was appalling "that Lloyd's, having found the directors of Brooks and Dooley guilty of a

breach of fiduciary duty to their names, has not charged Messrs Bellevue, Parry and Raven with aiding and abetting them in channeling funds to a Bermuda company, Fidentia, to the detriment of those names.

The motion on BPR claims "that solicitors James Pearson and Richard Pearson of Conyers, Dill and Pearson were and are prime movers in both the Brooks and Dooley case, where Lloyd's have found them guilty and imposed absurdly low sentences for not cooperating in their enquiries and in the Bellevue, Parry and Raven case."

It alleged that in the BPR case profits "from monies which were invested in off-shore reinsurance in Bermuda which should have gone to the children of the Bellevue, Parry and Raven families."



After the early-morning launch, the frigate Coventry moored on the River Tyne yesterday.



Lady Stanford naming the frigate with Mr Marsh after management had removed timbers beneath the ship (right).

Frigate launched in secret to foil strike

Continued from page 1

taken at 9pm on Monday although senior yard management had been on details throughout the day.

The senior Admiralty guests invited to the ceremony, Admiral Sir Peter Stanford, Command in Chief Naval Home Command, his wife Lady Stanford, the ship sponsor, and Vice Admiral Sir Derek Refell, Controller of the Navy, were told of the change of plan at a dinner given by Swan Hunter management at a local hotel.

They were asked if they wanted to attend as agreed. At

another hotel the 100 members of management had been assembled and were briefed on the launch.

At 3.45am, in an otherwise deserted shipyard, Lady Stanford performed the ceremony, pulling a lever which sent a bottle of champagne crashing against the bows of the frigate.

"It was very dark, very wet, very cold and very windy but also very exciting. I was not told I had to be there. I was kindly asked if I would like to be there. I said yes not only as the sponsor but on behalf of the next of kin. It was a very moving moment," she said.

Lady Stanford and the other

guests were equipped with oilskins, boots and large umbrellas. The official naming ceremony for the frigate took place later yesterday and was attended by relatives of the 19 men who died when the previous Coventry was sunk.

The stoppage by the 2,000 workers at the yard was in defiance of national union instructions. They had been told to work normally to allow talks with the company tomorrow.

The men had intended to return to work yesterday but were suspended by the company. They have rejected offers of rises for skilled men from

£135 per week to £153 per week rising to £160 next year. Several hundred workers demonstrated at the yard gates yesterday. They are to meet on Friday.

Mr Paul Stockdale, Secretary of the Local Confederation of Ship Building and Engineering Unions said: "This management expects us to be the worst paid warship yard in the country and we are not going to apologize for any action we have taken."

"We are very disappointed that the management carried out work traditionally done by manual workers. Industrial

relations are going to get worse, feelings will harden. I just hope someone can see common sense soon."

The new Coventry, weighing 4,100 tons, will be armed with Exocets and Sea Wolf missiles and carry two Lynx helicopters. It has a complement of 300 officers and men.

The anti-submarine frigate will be fitted out at Swan Hunter's Neptune shipyard alongside her sister ship, HMS Sheffield, be ready to handover to the Royal Navy early in 1987.

Leading article, page 17

Six die as helicopter crashes into hill

Continued from page 1

when low cloud, mist and persistent drizzle made visibility poor.

After the crash shocked villagers gathered across a road, the helicopter was already burning fiercely and it was believed that all on board had died instantly. Two bodies were thrown from the wreckage, but others were buried beyond recognition.

Mr Duncan Jack, of Brakelands Farm, Swackiffe, who owns the land on which the helicopter crashed, rushed to the scene when he heard the explosion.

Mr Jack, who flies his own helicopter, said: "I think the pilot was trying to clear the village. I think he was a bloody brave boy."

"I think he knew that he was in trouble and tried to get over the village to a field. If he had tried to land in the village, God knows how many people could have been killed if it had gone wrong."

"I think he was trying to get to a field, but he dropped like a brick."

Mr Hugh Smith, a plumber who lives in the village, was working on the roof of the Swackiffe Park School when the accident happened.

He said: "It was an awful experience that will be with me to the day I die. I heard the sound of the helicopter coming low over the roofs of the houses in the village. Suddenly the engine started to splutter and I heard it cut out. I looked up and saw it starting to fall."

"The engine came back to life for a few seconds and then cut out again and it crashed in the field. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me, but the helicopter was in a crumpled heap and on fire. I managed to get close to it and I could see three men, a girl and another woman."

"Two of the men had been thrown into the field, but they were seriously dead. The last was terrible and I could smell bodies burning. It was appalling. There was no way I could get any of them out. I could see the young girl inside, but I just had to watch it burn. It was hopeless."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Anne attends the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's 80th Birthday Concert for Maestro Antal Dorati at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 7.

The Duchess of Kent visits the Joint Air Force Reconnaissance and Intelligence Centre, RAF Brampton, Cambridgeshire. 11; later, as Patron, attends a Gala Evening in aid of the Stars Organisation for Saxics and the National Society for Cancer Relief at the Theatre Royal, WC2, 7.30.

Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, visits Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd, Newport Pagnall, 10; and later attends a dinner of the Board of Grand Stewards at Merchant Taylors Hall, EC2, 7.15.

New exhibitions

Falls the Shadow: Recent British and European Art, the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, SE1. Mon to Wed 10 to 8, Thurs to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 12 to 6 (ends June 15).

Works by Mary Fedden, New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Rd, Barnes, SW13. Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5 (ends May 31).

New Faces at the Warwick: works by Joanna Stockham, Daniel Maft, Iona Campbell-Gray, Gerard Morris, John Meadows, John G Evans, Ben Hartley and Sunil Patel; Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Sq, SW1. Wed to Sun 10 to 6 (closed Mon, Tues and May 3, 4 and 5) (ends May 11).

Music
18th Century Music by Sweet Harmony: Home House, 30 Portman Sq, W1, 7.30.

Concert by the Forest Choir.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, 7.45

Harpichord recital by Naomi Davidson, Purcell Room, South Bank, 7.30.

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Brighton Festival Chorus, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, 7.30.

Recital by the Vanasse Latache Trio, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, 12.30.

Concert by the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 7.30.

Recital by Nicholas Clapton (piano) and Liza Henderson (piano), the Purcell Room, South Bank, 7.30.

Concert by Peter Frankl and Tamás Vassary (piano), Barbican Hall, EC2, 1.

Concert by the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, SW1, 7.30.

Serenade Concert, St Luke's Leisure Centre, Central St, EC1, 7.30.

Concert by the Sinfonia Chorus, Newcastle City Hall, 7.45.

Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Concert by the Halle Orchestra, Manchester Free Trade Hall, 2.30.

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, Caird Hall, Dundee, 7.30.

Cello recital by Nicholas Priestly, Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington, 7.30.

Talks, lectures and films

Flora and Fauna Preservation Society talk by Tom Langton, Crouch Hill Recreation Society, Hillside Rd, N19, 7.30.

Painting the Warmth of the Sun: St. Ives Painters, 10.30; British Pop in the 1960s: David Hockney and R B Kitaj, 1. The Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1, 6.

Chinese jade by Gillian Darby, 11.30; The Great Houses of Virginia by Sarah Bowles: Victoria & Albert Museum, SW7, 1.15.

Techniques of drawing by Colin Wiggins, The National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq, WC2, 1; 1986: The UN Year of Peace by Myriell Davies, Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, WC2, 6.30.

General
Drains with Stephanie Freeman (ages 7 to 10); Children's art painting: Seaside holiday with Ray Gale (ages 7 to 9); Hands and Feet: Plaster-casting with Barbara Davis (ages 8 to 12); Pottery with Valerie Taylor (ages 11 to 16); Making dolls' houses with Hanne Yates (ages 8 to 14); Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Rd, NW3, 10 to 3.

Anniversaries

Births: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, civil and mechanical engineer, Portsmouth, 1806; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; Léon Blum, Premier of France 1936-37, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, Princeton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party, 1955-63, London, 1906.

Deaths: Edward IV, reigned 1461-70, 1471-83; London, 1483; François Rabelais, writer, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, Lord Chancellor, London, 1626; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, painter poet and a founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Bournemouth-on-Sea, Kent, 1882.

Books - hardback

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of new books published this week

Samuel Beckett: The Complete Dramatic Works (Paper £12.50)
A Modern View: The Works of Samuel Beckett by John Gorton (Paper £14.50)

The History of the County of Devon by John Gorton (Paper £14.50)

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TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending March 30:

1. Eastenders (Tue/Sun) 21.40m
2. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
3. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
4. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
5. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
6. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
7. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
8. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
9. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m
10. The 1986 Golden Egg Awards 16.00m

Roads

London and South-east: A3 London - bound carriageway reduced to one lane N of A25 (Junction 14). Lane changeover to N-bound and one for S-bound traffic use other lanes to avoid delays. Roadworks in Fishery Rd, Hamlet, Hamstead, N of A41 London Rd.

London and South-east: A3 London - bound carriageway reduced to one lane N of A25 (Junction 14). Lane changeover to N-bound and one for S-bound traffic use other lanes to avoid delays. Roadworks in Fishery Rd, Hamlet, Hamstead, N of A41 London Rd.

Weather forecast

The rather cold north-easterly airflow will continue to affect the country.

6am to midnight

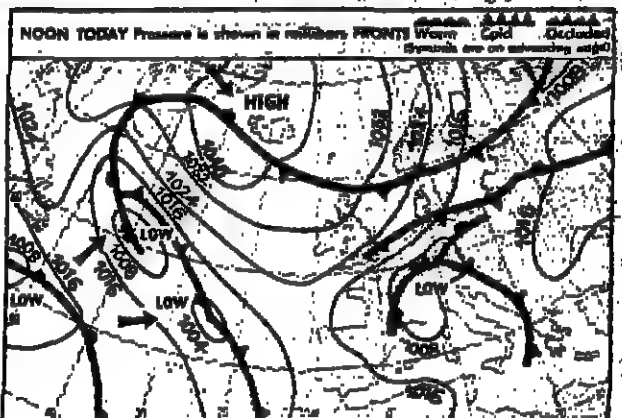
London, SE, central S, SW England, East Angles, S Midlands: Cloudy with rain or drizzle and snow on hills but slowly becoming drier and brighter from N, wind N to NE, moderate or brisk; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

NW, central N England, W Midlands, N Wales: Cloudy with light rain or drizzle and snow on hills but slowly becoming drier and brighter from N, wind N to NE, moderate or brisk; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

SE, central S, SW England, East Angles, S Midlands: Cloudy with rain or drizzle and snow on hills but slowly becoming drier and brighter from N, wind N to NE, moderate or brisk; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Lighting-up time

London 8.17 pm to 5.47 am
Bristol 8.26 pm to 5.56 am
Edinburgh 8.57 pm to 6.51 am
Manchester 8.26 pm to 5.56 am
Penzance 8.36 pm to 6.10 am



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Wind direction is indicated by arrows. Cloud cover is indicated by shading.

High Tides

| TODAY | High | Low | High | Low |
|---------------|------|-----|------|-----|
| London Bridge | 2.57 | 7.0 | 2.57 | 7.0 |
| Aberdeen | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Abermouth | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Cardiff | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Cardport | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Dunfermline | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Falmouth | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Glasgow | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Greenock | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Hull | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Leamington | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Lough | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Liverpool | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Manchester | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Marazion | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Mersey | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Oban | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Penzance | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Portsmouth | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Southampton | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| St Andrews | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Swansea | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Torquay | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |
| Wexham-on-Sea | 2.24 | 4.0 | 2.24 | 4.0 |

Tide measured in metres: low-2.29m.

Around Britain

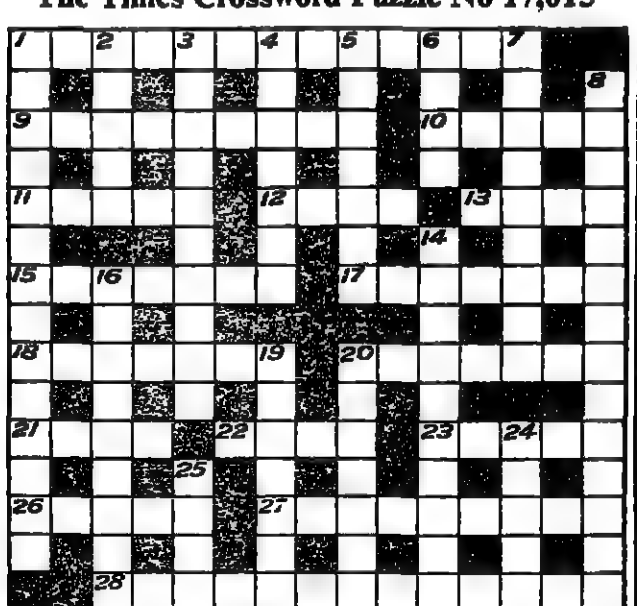
| Region | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Temp | Wind | Cloud |
|---------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|
| EAST COAST | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| South Coast | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| West Coast | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| North Coast | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| London | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Edinburgh | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Belfast | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Cardiff | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Glasgow | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Manchester | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Portsmouth | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Southampton | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Swansea | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Torquay | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |
| Wexham-on-Sea | 5.5 | 4 | 9 | 5.5 | 4 | 9 |

These are Sunday's figures

Abroad

| Country | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Country | Temp | Wind | Cloud |
|---------|------|------|-------|---------|------|------|-------|
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 | Algeria | 12 | 12 | 12 |

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,015



ACROSS

- 1 Destructive people train to break up exhibition (13).
- 2 Such braggadocio made Livy groan (4).
- 3 Rejected work includes picture (5).
- 4 Lair for animal about to leave cage in Belgium (5).
- 5 Fine article about king, possibly written by Boito (4).
- 6 In the same book Bashan's king returned to the desert (4).
- 7 Evergreen only found in a Latin country (7).
- 8 Records of actors' appearances (7).
- 9 Railway supporter comes by tube (7).
- 10 Revolutionary device for receiving cables at sea (7).
- 11 Source of heat acceptable in church (4).
- 12 Blue feathers (4).
- 13 Poet's claim to be at all times a Muslim ruler (5).
- 14 Sound attempt - total three (5).
- 15 Means of evasion employed by archers (9).
- 16 Underworld aspect of the Mary Celeste crew (13).

DOWN

- 1 Papal appointee literary hacks recommend? (6,8).
- 2 Hawthorn blossom's pronounced suitable for animal food (5).
- 3 Omitting to genuflect, perhaps, before start of Litany? (10).
- 4 A month in class upset hard workers (7).
- 5 A US city sage appears, no matter how (7).
- 6 Soldiers in denim picking off foes (4).
- 7 Student goes into assembly - one starting a new term (9).
- 8 Castaway spotted birds on erratic course (8,6).
- 9 Progress more, say, as one in loco parentis (10).
- 10 Sinister young woman's kidnapped slave (9).
- 11 First to hold sway, before she fell? (7).
- 12 Excuse prisoner already committed (7).
- 13 The Spanish boy in "The Lady of the Lake"? (5).
- 14 Inequalities not even Socrates initially recognized (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,014

ACROSS: 1. Destructive people train to break up exhibition (13). 2. Such braggadocio made Livy groan (4). 3. Rejected work includes picture (5). 4. Lair for animal about to leave cage in Belgium (5). 5. Fine article about king, possibly written by Boito (4). 6. In the same book Bashan's king returned to the desert (4). 7. Evergreen only found in a Latin country (7). 8. Records of actors' appearances (7). 9. Railway supporter comes by tube (7). 10. Revolutionary device for receiving cables at sea (7). 11. Source of heat acceptable in church (4). 12. Blue feathers (4). 13. Poet's claim to be at all times a Muslim ruler (5). 14. Sound attempt - total three (5). 15. Means of evasion employed by archers (9). 16. Underworld aspect of the Mary Celeste crew (13).

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لماذا من الهم

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1388.1 (-12.8)
FT-SE 100
1675.7 (-12.8)
USM (Datastream)
119.84 (+0.49)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4730 (+0.0205)
W German mark
3.4424 (-0.0378)
Trade-weighted
76.7 (same)

Guinness 'favoured'

More than 3,200 small shareholders in Distillers out of 7,256 contacted in a survey by Kleinwort Benson, the whisky group's merchant bank, are backing the £2.8 billion bid by Guinness. Only 195 favoured the rival £2.7 billion offer from Argyll.

Kwik rise

Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts) Holdings lifted profits from £4.23 million to £6.63 million in the year to February 28. Turnover rose from £61.2 million to £83.8 million and the final dividend is up from 0.94p to 1.1p.

Tempos, page 23

Gains at Next

Next has announced turnover for the six months to March 31, 1986, up 20 per cent to £85.6 million. Pretax profit was £13.6 million, compared with £13.5 million last year. The interim dividend is 1.3p against 1p last year.

Tempos, page 23

Trust launch

Laing & Crutchfield is bringing River and Mercantile General Capital and Income Trust 1999 to the market via an offer for sale of 35 million preferred shares and 14 million ordinary shares, valued at £1.44 billion. The application list opens at 10 am tomorrow.

Ramada's third

Ramada, the world's third largest hotel chain, is planning its third English property with the £9 million conversion of a Manchester office block into a 205-bedroom hotel. Completion is due next summer.

Special payout

West's Group International has declared a special interim dividend of 2.5p, to be paid on April 24, after the takeover offer for West by Tilbury Group becoming unconditional.

Newman fall

Newman Industries has declared a final dividend of 0.5p with pretax profits down from £3.1 million in 1984 to £3.1 million last year.

Expamet deal

Expamet International has paid £1.16 million in cash for Hoseworth, the Aylesbury-based manufacturer of fire alarm and security systems.

£50m issue

Enterprise Oil is to issue £50 million of 10 per cent bonds due in 1993 at par through an international syndicate managed by J Henry Schroder Wagg. The issue will be used to fund capital expenditure on its existing operations.

G5 'ready to agree cut in world interest rates'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Finance ministers of the Group of Five nations prepared to meet in a closely-guarded session yesterday as speculation grew in financial markets that they would agree to another coordinated cut in world interest rates.

Market analysts said there was ample room for the United States and Japan to cut their discount rates, following the base rate cuts in Britain, to stimulate their economies and relieve pressure on Latin American debtor nations, particularly oil exporters suffering from the energy price collapse.

The realignment of currencies in the European Monetary System should also spur rate reductions.

Speculation over the G5 session grew even as World Bank officials confirmed that the bank planned to accelerate its lending rate by nearly 90 per cent by 1990 because of the dismal prospects for growth in Third World countries.

US treasury officials, maintaining a wall of secrecy around the G5 meeting, re-

fused to acknowledge that it was being held and advised journalists not to expect any dramatic statements from the four-day meeting of world finance ministers in Washington.

Privately, officials noted that even though Japan left the door open to further interest rate cuts in the economic package it unveiled yesterday, it did not take the step and has urged the United States to prevent additional

sharp reductions in the dollar against the yen.

Meanwhile, in his outgoing report to the twice-yearly joint meeting of the bank and the International Monetary Fund, Mr A. W. Tom Clausen, the president of the World Bank, planned to recommend sharply higher lending levels rising to \$21.5 billion annually to generate more growth in depressed Third World economies.

Mr Clausen, who is to be

succeeded this summer by the former New York Congress-

man Barber Conable, warned in his still unpublished report that Third World nations will not be able to resume growth without a much larger infusion of capital from rich nations, officials confirmed.

He planned to tell the ministers from 153 nations that a capital increase of \$53 billion will be required to support the greater lending levels envisioned under the new five-year plan.

The United States, which has balked in the past at proposals for a capital increase, has promised to support one but not until after the mid-term elections in Congress and possibly not at this high level, officials said.

Mr Clausen's report estimates that the banks' loan programme will now range from \$40 billion to \$50 billion for 1986-88, up from the \$45 billion peak estimated in Seoul, South Korea when Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, unveiled his debt initiative.

Sterling weakened against most European currencies, however, dropping five pence to DM3.4548.

Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 76.7.

The prospect of a cut in the US Federal Reserve discount

rate encouraged a dollar collapse. It opened against sterling at 1.4730 in London after closing on Monday at \$1.4517 and closed at 1.4780 against the pound, and at DM2.3393, down from two five pence.

The big banks yesterday cut their base lending rates by half a percentage point. The timing, so soon after the drop in money market rates on Monday, took many by surprise.

The banks lowered their base rates to 11 per cent and as interest rates weakened in other industrial countries, base rates might fall a further half a percentage point next week.

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TO THE DISTILLERS SHAREHOLDERS.

SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT MAKES GUINNESS AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS.

PHONE 01-200 0200 FOR OUR FREE VIDEO.

In the interest of shareholders, Guinness Brewing World-wide have recently produced a short documentary which shows how we operate overseas.

Available free in VHS, Betamax, V2000 or U-Matic, this 15 minute tape will help you gain a fuller understanding of Guinness' ideas in action.

This video tape is offered only to Distillers and Guinness

shareholders. If you are such a shareholder, to obtain your copy simply phone the 24 hour number above (for Scotland ring 041 332 3333) and ask for "Guinness Video."

You will be asked for your name, address and the type of tape you require and confirmation that you are a Distillers or Guinness shareholder. A tape will then be sent to you as quickly as possible.

GUINNESS PLC

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TEMPUS

Davies still full of ideas for his Next trick

After four years of explosive growth at the Next retail chain, George Davies, its chief executive, is still full of ideas for expansion. His outstanding record of profits growth was continued with yesterday's interim announcement of pretax profit of £13.7 million for the six months to March 31, 41 per cent up on last year.

Next is the bouncing baby which launched all over its parent, the uninspiring Hepworth group, so much that the family name was changed.

Next began as a specialist retailer of women's apparel, whence it has moved into men's fashion wear and home furnishings. Shoes, accessories and cosmetics are becoming increasingly available in Next stores. In the autumn, lingerie will be added to the range of goods offered and, in 18 months' time, children's wear.

Next dabbled in acquisition when it took over the Lord John chain. It is also reliably reported to have considered buying the House of Fraser chain, excluding Harrods, a move which would have taken it into the big league of retailers at a stroke and changed the face of many city high streets. It has now principally decided to grow organically, although the temptations to make an acquisition remain.

Club 24, Next's credit card company, contributes about 25 per cent of pretax profit and lends stability to retailing earnings, which can be very volatile. Financially, the company is extremely strong. Gearing is close to 7 per cent and cash flow more than adequate. Its rating in the low 20s discounts quite a bit of future growth.

Kwik-Fit
Two and a half million motorists will take their car to be serviced at a Kwik-Fit outlet this year. That compares with 2 million last year and 1.6 million the year before.

Increasing popularity is driving both profits and the share price forward at a tremendous rate. Shares in Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts) have come up from a 12-month low of 55p to a high of 99p, where they were trading yesterday.

They could soon receive a further boost if the company succeeds in its attempt to switch its listing from the automotive components sector, where it lies alongside manufacturers such as GKN

and Lucas Industries, to the more highly-rated stores sector.

Kwik-Fit says this designation would more accurately reflect the retailing nature of its business.

Whatever the sector, Kwik-Fit now has a growth tag. Profits jumped from £4.23 million to £6.63 million before tax last year and there should be good progress again this year.

Though 33 depots were opened the company saw little of the benefit as 22 of them started in the last two months of the year. Kwik-Fit expects to open another 30 this year.

Exhausts account for 46 per cent of turnover, tyres for 35 per cent and other products, including radiators, account for the rest.

The latter group is becoming increasingly important as the company introduces a broader range of products. For the longer term, it has plans to open up to 100 Car Care centres offering a complete car service.

While the cost of new depots should be covered by cash flow from trading, the Car Care project could require special funding, given gearing of 57 per cent. That could be why the company is planning to sell its property portfolio, which has a book value of £11 million. Confirmation of these property disposals should remove fears of a rights issue.

The shares are trading on a modest multiple of 11 times prospective earnings assuming profits of £8.5 million and a slightly higher tax charge. They should continue to perform well and should be particularly attractive to car owners as they can make use of the 10 per cent discount available to holders of 100 shares.

BP/Standard Oil
BP's biggest investment is its 55.5 per cent share in the Standard Oil Company, formerly Sohio. In the financial year just ended, its interest in Standard Oil contributed 50 per cent of its net income of £1.6 billion before extraordinary charges.

Despite the considerable expansion of Standard Oil's downstream capacity through the purchase of Gulf refiners and marketing properties, the company was still dependent on oil production in Alaska for more than 85 per cent of its pretax profit from integrated oil operations last year.

The fall in the oil price is of concern to BP, therefore, but it is a particular worry in the case of Alaskan oil with its high cost of operation.

Extraction costs have fallen recently because Alaskan severance taxes are calculated at 15 per cent of the well-head value, which has fallen. Despite this, they are still estimated to be \$4.25 per barrel.

Moving the oil across Alaska via the Alyeska pipeline costs another \$4.50 a barrel. Between them, Standard Oil and BP own 50 per cent of the pipeline, so the tariff is partly a transfer charge. However, the operating cost of the line and interest on capital amount to about \$1.60.

The rest of the journey from Valdez to the refining centres in the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast of America costs another \$3 or so, giving a built-up marginal cost to the refiner of nearly \$9 per barrel.

North Slope crude is heavier and higher in sulphur, so its spot value is approximately 25 cents a barrel lower than West Texas Intermediate, the most frequently quoted US crude. The current spot price of Alaskan crude is therefore about \$12 after recent rises.

At a delivered cost of nearly \$9, Alaskan crude was barely profitable when the spot price was \$10 and even though the price has risen to \$12, the price is still volatile and profitability remains vulnerable.

Even if the price fell to a level where there was no profit to be made on Alaskan oil, it is unlikely that the Prudhoe Bay field would be closed altogether because of the considerable costs associated with shutting it down and restarting it when the price recovered. For this to happen, there would need to be a prolonged decline to between \$7 and \$8 per barrel.

Most of Standard Oil's output is disposed of directly or via exchanges into its own refineries at prices of \$14 in the Gulf and \$13 in the East Coast. Consequently, production profits are being subsidised by the refining and marketing operations, but this will not go on indefinitely.

If the price remains low, competition will gradually erode product prices, reducing total profitability. Even allowing for the time-lag while product prices catch up with the lower oil prices, the outlook for Standard Oil's and hence BP's profits is not bright unless oil prices stabilize at higher levels.

Gilts boosted as equities dip

Gilts blazed away again yesterday as the clearing banks chopped half a point from their base rates. Gains stretched to about two points as dealers looked forward to another small reduction soon.

But equities failed to hold an initial strong advance and another wave of profit-taking during the afternoon had prices looking mixed.

The FT 30-share index slipped by 12.8 points to 1388.1, while the FT-SE index fell by a similar number of points, to 1675.7.

Internationals suffered the most as the pound continued to remain strong against a weakening dollar.

Glaxo were among the worst hit, at 97.5p, down 25p. The next Tuesday's half-timer, while ICI lost 13p to 916p on persistent talk of a bid for Beecham, which finished 2p better at 408p after actively trading between extremes of 415p and 399p.

Hawker, reporting later this month, gave up 8p to 571p and Vickers took head of "take profits" advice, down 20p to 518p.

Stores were good at first, but also succumbed to selling pressure later in the session. Woolworth, at 875p, gave back 30p of its recent rise which followed last week's bid from Dixons Group.

Barton at 316p and Combined English, 228p, were others to lose about 15p. In contrast, Our Price was hoisted 73p to 648p following an agreed bid from W H Smith, 24p down at 330p.

Some house builders benefited from the prospects of cheaper mortgages, with Wimpey 4p better at 164p. Estate agents were wanted for a similar reason, with Connells another 18p higher at 231p ahead of next Friday's results. Mann & Co improved 15p to 305p in sympathy.

Engineers attracted selective support mainly on bid hopes. Pegler-Hattersley were to the fore again at 462p, up 20p. Weir Group climbed 10p to 143p on suggestions of an imminent approach from either F H Tomkins or GEC.

Talk of a big acquisition loomed 17p from Williams Holdings at 663p and Laird Group were another weak spot at 301p, down 22p after recent results. TI Group remained in favour at 553p, up 14p, the Evered stake remaining a stimulant.

Recovery hopes lifted Johnson & Firth Brown at 435p, up 4p, while Glynwed at 380p, up 5p, continued to benefit from the good results announced on Monday.

News of a defence contract boosted CAP Group 15p to 243p. Amstrad were hoisted 20p to 500p on further consideration of the Sinclair deal.

Granada jumped 8p to 292p as the chairman forecast a 37 per cent increase in pretax profit. Kwik-Fit added 4p to 100p after a 57 per cent earnings improvement.

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A 95 per cent profit increase lifted London & Continental Advertising 14p to 185p. Cheerful statements also supported Ash & Lacy at 387p, Bodycote 358p, Arneson 45p, Metsee 99p and Beauford 131p up 2p to 13p.

Dweek Group, with figures due, was suspended at 77p, down 11p, while a 40 per cent setback chopped 4p from Newman Industries at 28p. Next gave up 6p to 288p in spite of profits well up to expectations but in mail orders Grattan was firm in ex-rights form at 452p, up 12p.

Continuous Stationery advanced 13p to 45p on news of an important stake change.

Factory jobs drop by 40% in decade

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The decline in manufacturing industries over the last decade has been confirmed and highlighted in the latest analysis of the Government's 1981 census, which shows that in some major cities employment in manufacturing has dropped by more than 40 per cent.

The report says that while the fall in the number of people with jobs was about 4 per cent between 1971 and 1981, the drop in manufacturing was nearly 24 per cent, representing a loss of 1.9 million jobs.

In agriculture, forestry and fishing, the fall was 19 per cent, but this represented only 100,000 jobs. Employment rose in every region in distribution and catering industries and also in other fields, including local and central government financial and business services, entertainment, recreation and personal services.

In London, Birmingham, and Manchester, the number employed in manufacturing fell by 40 per cent, while there were increases in the rural districts.

The census records a decline in the numbers of salesmen in the 10 years and of male economists, statisticians, systems analysts and computer programmers, although the number of women in these jobs almost doubled.

In 1981, about 10 per cent of the economically active men and 7 per cent of the women were looking for work - a combined rate of 9 per cent - while 18 per cent of teenagers were jobless. The report stresses that while there has been a big rise in unemployment since 1981, the general patterns of areas and social differentials still prevail.

Census Guide 3 - Britain's workforce. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St Catherine's House, 10, Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP. Price £3.

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Census Guide 3 - Britain's workforce. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St Catherine's House, 10, Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP. Price £3.

NEW INTEREST RATES

Base Rate

Reduces by 0.5% to 11% per annum with effect from 9th April 1986.

Deposit Account

Interest on Deposit Accounts reduces by 0.5% to 5.25% net p.a. with effect from 9th April 1986. For those customers who receive interest gross, the rate reduces to 7.02% p.a.

Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

SKF

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinedal, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, Sweden, at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 April, 1986.

Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and the Articles of Association.

Other business is a Board proposal that Article 4 of the Company's Articles of Association be altered to set the lowest authorised share capital limit at 1,350,000

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street prices jumped sharply higher at the start of trading yesterday on reports of an imminent US discount rate change, according to traders.

The reports fanned enthusiasm already evident on Monday when shares recovered from sharp losses at the end of the day.

Shares on Monday were also affected by the Norwegian

North Sea oil workers' strike which boosted crude oil prices. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 13 points to 1,748 in early trading yesterday. The average had retreated most of last week and through midweek on Monday, its recovery amounting to more than 100 points.

Advancing shares led declining issues by a margin of seven-to-one.

| STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Market rates | 1 month | 3 months | 6 months |
| N York | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| London | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Amsterdam | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Paris | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Brussels | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Geneva | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Basel | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |
| Zurich | 1.4825 | 1.4725 | 1.4625 |

Market rates supplied by Reuters Bank NFX and Ecol. "Lloyd's Bank International"

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

| EURO MONEY DEPOSITS % | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Rate | 1 month | 3 months | 6 months |
| Base Rate % | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| Discount Rate % | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Prime Rate % | 12.00 | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| Overnight % | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| 1 month % | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| 3 months % | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| 6 months % | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 |

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

| LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Contract | Open | High | Low |
| 3 month Sterling | 90.50 | 90.50 | 90.50 |
| 6 month Sterling | 90.50 | 90.50 | 90.50 |
| 9 month Sterling | 90.50 | 90.50 | 90.50 |
| 12 month Sterling | 90.50 | 90.50 | 90.50 |

CANADIAN PRICES

| CANADIAN PRICES | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--------|------|
| Commodity | Price | Change | Unit |
| Wheat | 1.15 | +0.02 | bu |
| Barley | 1.10 | +0.01 | bu |
| Oats | 1.05 | +0.01 | bu |
| Flour | 1.20 | +0.01 | bu |

The pound gained more than 2 cents against a weak dollar yesterday, despite the half-point cut in base rates, but fell against most European currencies. Sterling closed at \$1.4730, compared with a high of \$1.4805.

| OTHER STERLING RATES | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------|------|
| Currency | Rate | Change | Unit |
| US Dollar | 1.4730 | +0.0055 | \$/£ |
| French Franc | 6.55 | +0.01 | FF/£ |
| German Mark | 1.93 | +0.01 | M/£ |
| Italian Lira | 2036 | +0.01 | L/£ |

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

| DOLLAR SPOT RATES | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Country | Rate | Change | Unit |
| Canada | 0.71 | +0.005 | C\$/D |
| Japan | 150.00 | +0.01 | ¥/D |
| West Germany | 1.93 | +0.01 | M/D |
| France | 6.55 | +0.01 | FF/D |

GOLD

| GOLD | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|------|
| Commodity | Price | Change | Unit |
| Gold | 338.50 | +0.50 | oz |

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| INVESTMENT TRUSTS | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Commodity | Price | Change | Unit |
| Wheat | 1.15 | +0.02 | bu |
| Barley | 1.10 | +0.01 | bu |
| Oats | 1.05 | +0.01 | bu |

| LONDON METAL EXCHANGE | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Metal | Price | Change | Unit |
| Copper | 1.15 | +0.02 | lb |
| Aluminum | 1.10 | +0.01 | lb |
| Zinc | 1.05 | +0.01 | lb |

| LONDON GRAIN FUTURES | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Grain | Price | Change | Unit |
| Wheat | 1.15 | +0.02 | bu |
| Barley | 1.10 | +0.01 | bu |
| Oats | 1.05 | +0.01 | bu |

| FINANCIAL TRUSTS | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

| ASSET UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| BANKING UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| BOND UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| EQUITY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| INTERNATIONAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| RETIEMENT UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| MUTUAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| HYBRID UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| FOOD UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| TECHNOLOGY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| ENERGY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| HEALTHCARE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| ARTS AND CULTURE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| SPORTS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| RECREATION UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| LUXURY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| REAL ESTATE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| INFRASTRUCTURE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| WATER SUPPLY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| TRANSPORTATION UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| AIRCRAFT UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| SHIPBUILDING UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| MARINE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| FISHING UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| FORESTRY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| PAPER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| TEXTILE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| FABRIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| LEATHER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| JEWELLERY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| WATCHES UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| CLOCKWORK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| TOYS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| GAMES UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| BOOKS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| MUSIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| FILM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| TELEVISION UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| RADIO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| COMICS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

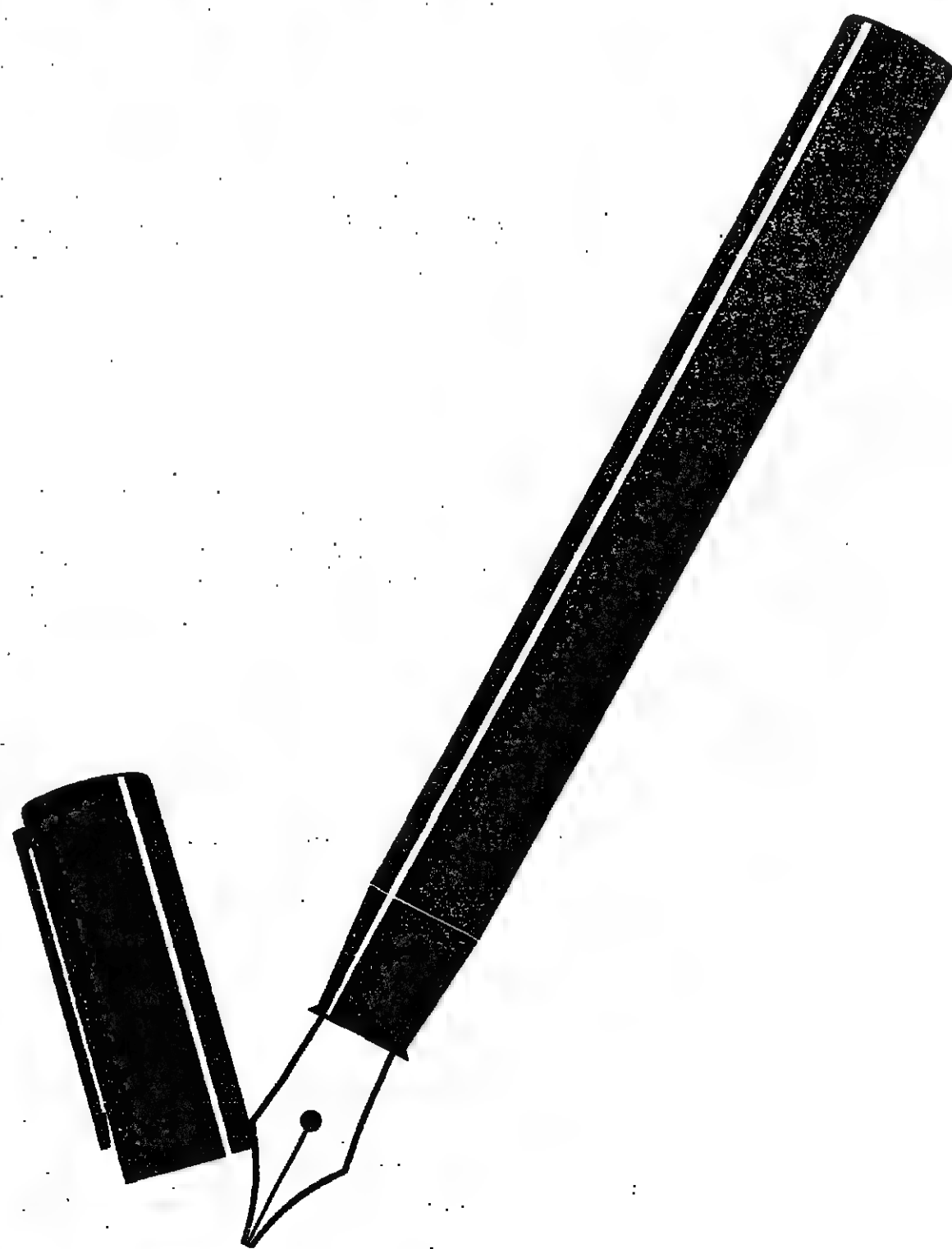
| GAMES UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| TOYS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| GAMES UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |
| Investment | 1.10 | +0.01 | sh |
| Capital | 1.05 | +0.01 | sh |

| BOOKS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Trust Name | Price | Change | Unit |
| First State | 1.15 | +0.02 | sh |

Imperial Shareholders: Post your UB acceptance form today!



To be sure your acceptance of the UB offer arrives in time, you *must* post it today. It has to be received by 3:00 pm this Friday, 11th April 1986.*

If you are in any doubt how to complete the form, ring our Help Line on 0272 666961 and reverse the charges.



Agency to seek PCW meeting

By Alison Eadie

AUA3, the agency appointed by Lloyd's insurance market to close the loss-making PCW syndicates, has requested a meeting with Mr Peter Cameron-Webb, the former managing director of the PCW agency, to try to find out what action he would have taken if he had remained in charge.

Sir Ian Morrow, chairman of AUA3, wrote this week to names on former PCW syndicates: "It has been suggested that the losses which affect some of the syndicates under our management would not have occurred if the original PCW management had remained."

"We can find no evidence whatsoever to substantiate such a view, but in order to investigate it I have written to Mr Cameron-Webb in the United States to enquire whether he would agree to meet me."

Mr Cameron-Webb is alleged to have misappropriated £6.5 million of syndicate funds for his own benefit. He fled last weekend to pay back \$1.5 million (£1 million). The letter also said that the syndicates' accounts at December 31, 1985, would not be ready until the end of June. The accounts are expected to show a much higher loss than the £130 million shown last year.

Sir Ian believes that proposals for a market settlement could be made in the next few weeks. He said that potential defendants against legal action by PCW names expect names to contribute "a significant amount" to the settlement.

Reporting record profits, London & Edinburgh Trust, the Knightsbridge property development group, is lifting its final dividend for 1985 from 3.75p to 4.5p, raising the total from 6.25p to 7.5p. The board plans a one-for-five scrip issue and intends to maintain the dividend on the enlarged capital for 1986.

Last year, turnover more than doubled to £72.05 million, against £33.38 million. Pretax profits climbed from £5.11 million to a best-ever £9.2 million. In the interim report last October, the board predicted "significantly higher" pretax profits for the year. Operating profit rose from £4.36 million to £7.3 million, while rental income increased from £1.1 million to £1.44 million. The trust's share of related companies' profits jumped from £118,000 to £337,000 and net interest receivable was £113,000, compared with £471,000 payable last time.

● **WYNDHAM GROUP:** The group is to buy a freehold site known as Springfield House, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff, from R J Greatrex for £260,000 cash.

● **ARENSON GROUP:** Interim dividend 0.4p (nil) for the six months to Feb 2, 1986. Turnover £6.94 million (£7.38 million). Pretax profit £236,000 (£260,000). Earnings per share 2p (0.20p).

● **LONDON AND CONTINENTAL ADVERTISING:** Total dividend for 1985 2.25p (1.0p). Turnover £28.65 million (£17.64 million). Pretax profit £3.51 million (£1.8 million). Earnings per share 9.33p (6.27p). The board reports that the current year has started well.

● **METSEC:** Final dividend of 1.5p for 1985. If the ordinary shares had been dealt in on the USM for the whole year, the board would have recommended a dividend of 2.46p. Turnover £14.83 million (£12.4 million). Pretax profit £1.38 million (£658,000). Earnings per share 6.68p (3p).

Peak profits from London & Edinburgh

COMPANY NEWS

● **RILEY LEISURE:** No dividend for 1985 (0.7p). Turnover £25.76 million (£22.57 million). Pretax profit £751,000 (loss £1.22 million). Earnings per share 1.8p (loss 9.6p).

● **MEMORY COMPUTER:** For the six months to December 31, 1985 (six months to September 30, 1984), with figures in £1,000, turnover was 3,578 (£2.13m), pretax profit 58 (£2,304) and tax 2,118 (£863). Earnings per share were 0.04p (loss 35.8p).

Profits at Johnston Group, the Surrey civil and mechanical engineer, staged a partial recovery last year. Before tax, they improved from £4.46 million to £5.54 million - but they are still below 1983's £5.9 million. Turnover expanded from £58.37 million to £62.09 million. The final dividend is going up from 5p to 5.25p, making 7.5p (7p). Earnings per share slipped to 30.98p (31.26p), but the net asset value climbed to 273p (257p).

● **CLYDE PETROLEUM:** The chairman, Dr Colin Phipps, said that 1986 would probably see an acceleration in rationalization and restructuring of oil sector at home and overseas. The company could not be immune to this, nor should it be.

● **TR ENERGY:** With figures in £000, income from fixed assets investments for the six months to December 31, 1985, 777 (£71), investment dealing losses 157 (36), pretax loss 24 (profit 17) and tax nil (5.6). Loss per share was 0.10p (earnings per share 0.05p).

● **COMBINED ENGLISH STORES GROUP:** The company has bought 50 per cent of Paige Group, the 246-branch women's wear retailer, for £2.3 million. Great Universal Stores retains a 50 per cent interest in Paige and will keep the freehold and longer leasehold interests in properties it leases to Paige. The board of Paige will comprise Mr Murray Gordon (who will be chairman), Mr David Roxburgh and Mr Pat Hammond-Turner from Combined English, and Mr Eric Barnes, Mr Walter Wolfe and Mr Walter Kelly from Great Universal. Combined English will have full management responsibilities for the business.

● **THE FLEMING JAPANESE INVESTMENT TRUST:** The net asset value per ordinary share for the six months to January 31, 1986, was 652.2p (606.6p). Investment income, in £, franked dividends 105,521 (106,117), unfranked dividends 443,698 (266,493), unfranked interest 171,384 (392,287), deposit interest 266,384 (208,255), lending fees 7,441 (6,064), making 994,428 (979,216). Preference dividends 5,250 (5,250), making 512,336 (529,596). Earnings per share were 3.14p (2.94p).

● **GODFREY DAVIS (HOLDINGS):** The company has bought Stephenson Grove Park, Stanton, Suffolk, from ABI Park Developments for £825,000, the consideration being for the business of the park home residential estate, the freehold of the park, which is licensed for 191 homes, and £27,000 of plant and machinery.

● **DAVIDSON PEARCE GROUP:** The company has acquired the remaining 70 per cent of the issued share capital of Bay Tree that it did not already own.

● **FRIENDLY HOTELS:** Final 0.7p, making 0.7p (7p). Results for year to December 28, figures in £000: Group profit 114 (91) after all charges. Earnings per share 22.4p (16.5p).

● **LEE INTERNATIONAL:** 21,676 applications for 42,074,600 shares were received from the general public and 397 applications for 1,494,150 shares were received from the group's employees. After allocating in full the shares applied for by employees on preferential application forms, 15,168,050 shares are available for the general public, to be allotted as follows: between 100 and 300 shares applied for, allocation in full; 300-400 applied for, 400 allotted; 400-500 applied for, 500 allotted; 500-600 applied for, 600 allotted; up to 2,500 applied for, 800 allotted; 3,000-18,000 applied for, about 33 per cent allotted; 19,000-22,000 applied for, 6,000 allotted; 25,000 and over, about 25 per cent allotted.

● **AC CARS:** Acceptances of the offer by Mr William West for the share capital of the company has been received for 1,262,387 ordinary shares (63.1 per cent), for which irrevocable undertakings had been given before the offer was announced.

● **ISC Defence and Space Group,** a US offshoot of London-based International Signal & Control, is to buy Electro Magnetic Processes of Chatsworth, California. The price is \$3.5 million cash (£2.4 million), with two instalments, payable in cash in 1987 and 1988, following certification of EMP's accounts and based on EMP's profits after tax. This additional consideration will represent some 6.7 times the average profit after tax for the two years to 1987. Last year, EMP's sales were \$8.9 million. Its net assets at the year-end were about \$4.4 million.

● **KLEINWORTH BENSON STERLING ASSET FUND:** For the period October 1 1985 to March 31, Dividend 4.9p making 4.9p (4.1p). Gross revenue £28,618 (£27,189), net revenue £3,044 (£5,056), nav per participating share £19.90 (£18.00, 1/2 xd).

● **AVON RUBBER:** The company has acquired of Galt Glass Laminates and Galt Glass Laminates (Overseas).

● **FLOYD OIL PARTICIPATIONS:** Results for six months to December 31. No div. With figures in £000, turnover was 1,830 (2,291), cost of sales 1,133 (1,332), operating costs 438 (365), depletion 1,133 (762), gross profit 116 (915), admin expenses 191 (97), amortization of exploration expenditure 261 (91), other income 225 (70), operating loss 12 (97), interest expense 69 (136), loss before tax 180 (127), loss after tax 180 (127).

● **BEATSON CLARK:** The chairman, Mr David Clark, said that Brookhill Mouldings would shortly commission first phase of new factory to accommodate expansion of flexible plastic tube business. In Australia foundations were laid for further expansion. New opportunities were expected in Holland for Font Packaging. However, improved performance would to some extent be offset by consolidation of an expected trading loss from Beatson Plastics in its first year of operation.

APPOINTMENTS

Bryan Cowgill elected to board of SelecTV



Mr Bryan Cowgill, who has been appointed assistant managing director of Boddingtons' Breweries of Manchester.



Mr Neil Kerr, who has been appointed assistant managing director of Boddingtons' Breweries of Manchester.

SelecTV: Mr Bryan Cowgill, deputy chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, has been elected to the board. Mr Cowgill has more than 30 years' experience in television broadcasting, setting up BBC television sports coverage as head of sport in the 1960s and later becoming controller of BBC1 in the 1970s.

The Phoenix Timber Group: Mr David H Darke has been appointed group managing director.

Stonegate Farmers: Mr Paul Parsons has been made chairman and managing director.

Allied International Designers: Mr John Saltsie joins the board as a non-executive director.

Balmoral Group: Mr Mark Patterson has become a director.

The Declan Kelly Group: Mr Harry B Caswell becomes land director.

Brown Shipley Insurance Group Management: Mr R N Amos, chairman, Mr D C McIntosh, deputy chairman, Lord Faraham, Mr A C D Ingleby-Mackenzie, Mr F H Brandenburg, Mr A W Mansfield have all been appointed to the board.

Brown Shipley Insurance Services: Mr M J Rusby has been made a director. Mr C Barker is the new deputy managing director of Brown Shipley Insurance Brokers & L. Mr C Ford is now deputy managing director and Mr D Pressey is a director of Brown Shipley Insurance Brokers (UK).

Alwen Hough Johnson (Holdings): Mr A S Fox has been appointed a director and Mr D J Moss has been made a director of Alwen Hough Johnson.

Bradstock, Hunt & Thompson (L&P): Mr Terry C Monk has been named as managing director. Mr Geoffrey Smith is now deputy chairman.

Reed Plastic Packaging: Mr D J Cooksey has become managing director.

Whesoe Haden Offshore: Mr M W Hipple, chairman, Mr W F Edwards, Mr F Middlemiss and Mr J D Pool have been appointed to the board of directors.

Killick Martin & Co: Mr John Webb and Mr Ron Patterson join the board. S & W Berisford: Mr John R Slater has become a non-executive director.

Biwater: Mr Stuart Nuttall joins the corporate board.

Schlumberger Measurement and Control (UK): Mr Alan Plumpton has become a director.

Clayform Properties: Mr Robert Ware has been appointed a director. Harper-Smith, Bennett: Mr Ray Whitaker, Mr Norman Murray and Mr Roger Brown have been made partners. Rapra Technology: Dr Malcolm Hall has joined the board.

Securicor: Mr H C Coxall has been promoted to vice-chairman of Securicor Air Couriers. He is succeeded as managing director by Mr J Wild.

Satchwell Control Systems: Mr Christopher Smyth has been promoted to managing director. Ward White Group: Mr Peter George Arber has joined the main board. Mr Stephen Etheridge is promoted from sales director to managing director of John White Footwear in succession to Mr Arber.

London & Edinburgh Trust: Mr John H Goss and Mr Keith J Rawlings have been appointed to the board.

Ward White Group: Mr Peter George Arber has joined the main board.

Sabre Securities Ltd: Mr Bryan Hawkins has been made a non-executive director.

London & Edinburgh Trust: Mr John H Goss and Mr Keith J Rawlings have been appointed to the board.

Ward White Group: Mr Peter George Arber has joined the main board.

Sabre Securities Ltd: Mr Bryan Hawkins has been made a non-executive director.

STAT-PLUS GROUP PLC

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 Registered No. 1071698)

SHARE CAPITAL

AUTHORISED £425,000 **ISSUED AND FULLY PAID** £358,333
in Ordinary Shares of 5p each

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of Stat-Plus Group PLC formerly dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market to be admitted to the Official List.

Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of the listing particulars may be obtained during normal office hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Bank Holidays excepted) for 14 days from the date of this notice from Stat-Plus Group PLC, Stat-Plus House, 11 Greenlee Park, Prince George's Road, Collier's Wood, London SW19 2PU and from Laurence, Prust & Co., 7-11 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AH, and for the two business days following the date of this notice from Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, London EC2.

LAURENCE, PRUST & CO.

Basildon House, 7-11 Moorgate
London EC2R 6AH

9th April 1986

BASE LENDING RATES

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| ABN | 12.50% |
| Adam & Company | 11.50% |
| BCCI | 11.50% |
| Citibank Savings | 11.95% |
| Consolidated Cus | 11.00% |
| Continental Trust | 11.50% |
| Co-operative Bank | 11.50% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 11.50% |
| Lloyds Bank | 11.00% |
| Nat Westminster | 11.00% |
| Royal Bank of Scotland | 11.00% |
| TSB | 11.00% |
| Citibank NA | 11.50% |

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Latest prices:

Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of our offer for Imperial. The value we've quoted is based on our best possible offer. The next closing date of our offer is April 11 at 3 pm.

IMPERIAL SHARE PRICE:

347.0P.

HANSON BID WORTH:

369.0P.

HANSON BID HIGHER BY:

+22.0P.

Prices based on the market price at 3.50pm on Tuesday.

HANSON TRUST

The values of Hanson Trust's offers depend on its share price. The above offer value is for Hanson Trust's share and convertible stock election and takes account of an estimate of House Finance Ltd. of the value of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson Trust. The value of the convertible stock is estimated because it will only be held in the event of the offer becoming unconditional.

Standard Chartered

Base Rate

On and after 8th April, 1986
Standard Chartered Bank's Base Rate
for lending is being decreased from
11.50% to 11.00%

| Deposit Rates are | Gross Interest | Net Interest |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 7 days' notice | 7.50% | 5.61% |
| 21 days' notice | 8.25% | 6.17% |

Interest paid half-yearly

Standard Chartered Bank

Head Office 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE
Tel. 01-280 7500 Telex 885951

TSB BANK

With effect from the close of business on Tuesday, 8th April, 1986, and until further notice
TSB Base Rate is decreased from 11.5% p.a. to 11.0% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to

TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly

Trustee Savings Banks

Central Board,
PO Box 33, 25 Milk Street,
London EC2V 8LU.

National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest announces that with effect from Tuesday, 8th April, 1986, its Base Rate is decreased from 11.50% to 11.00% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

Coutts & Co

Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is reduced from 11.50% to 11.00% per annum with effect from the 8th April, 1986 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly

The Deposit Rates on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal are as follows:-

7.25% per annum Gross*
5.25% per annum Net (the Gross Equivalent of which is 7.39% per annum to a basic rate tax payer).

Rates are subject to variation and interest is paid half-yearly in June and December

*Not ordinarily available to individuals who are U.K. residents

440 Strand, London, WC2R 0QS

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PUBLISHED BY MORGAN GRENELL & CO LIMITED ON BEHALF OF UNITED BISCUITS HOLDINGS PLC. THE DIRECTORS OF UNITED BISCUITS HOLDINGS PLC ARE THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF (HAVING TAKEN ALL REASONABLE CARE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH IS THE CASE). THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS NOT TO BE RELIED UPON AS A BASIS FOR ANY INVESTMENT DECISION. THE DIRECTORS OF UNITED BISCUITS HOLDINGS PLC ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDINGLY.

UB's offer for Imperial. Latest prices:



Imperial's share price.

351.0p

UB's best and final offer.

360.9p

UB's offer higher by:

+ 9.9p

Based on market prices at 3.30pm on Tuesday, 8th April 1986.



Final acceptances for the UB offer must be received by 3pm Friday, 11th April 1986*.

United Imperial

THE VALUE OF UB'S OFFER DEPENDS ON ITS SHARE PRICE. THE ABOVE OFFER VALUE IS FOR UB'S ORDINARY SHARE ALTERNATIVE AND TAKES ACCOUNT OF AN ESTIMATE BY POWE & FITMAN AND WOOD MACKENZIE & CO LIMITED, BROKERS TO UB, OF THE VALUE OF THE NEW UB CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SHARES. THE VALUE OF THE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SHARES IS ESTIMATED BECAUSE THEY WILL ONLY BE LISTED IN THE EVENT OF THE OFFER BECOMING UNCONDITIONAL.

*UNLESS THE OFFER HAS BECOME UNCONDITIONAL AS TO ACCEPTANCES

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

| No. | Company | Year | Share Price |
|-----|--------------------|------|-------------|
| 1 | Decca | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 2 | Clayton So | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 3 | Beggs | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 4 | Babcock | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 5 | Ashtree Metal | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 6 | Dentist Stamp | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 7 | Blue Arrow | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 8 | Beecham | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 9 | Brown & Tawse | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 10 | Aercon | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 11 | Building and Roads | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 12 | Galfrid | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 13 | Cement-Roadstone | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 14 | Monk (A) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 15 | McAlpine (Allied) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 16 | Conder Corp | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 17 | Lubricants (RSC) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 18 | Warrington (T) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 19 | Brack Johnson | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 20 | Finlan Corp | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 21 | Electricals | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 22 | Jones Stroud | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 23 | Bowthorpe | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 24 | BICC | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 25 | Dale Elec | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 26 | Radio Fidelity | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 27 | Autoflex | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 28 | Quik Automation | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 29 | Dowling & Mills | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 30 | ME Elec | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 31 | Phonon | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 32 | FOODS | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 33 | Low (Wm) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 34 | Loval (GF) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 35 | Bassett Foods | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 36 | Schweppes (R) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 37 | Hilldown Hops | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 38 | Cadbury-Schweppes | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 39 | Mormon (W) | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 40 | Assoc Fisheries | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 41 | Nuth Foods | 1985 | 10.00 |
| 42 | Sambory Ltd | 1985 | 10.00 |

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | TOTAL |
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Senior Secretaries' first one-day course on Management Thinking for Secretaries' last month was designed to make secretaries more aware of the management function and their own role within it.

Some typical comments by PAs and secretaries who attended: 'A very professional and worthwhile day'. The course confirmed I was thinking along the right lines.

My luck changed, Fiona, from the moment I was introduced to Senior Secretaries.



Senior Secretaries
WEST END • CITY • KNIGHTSBRIDGE • BRUSSELS

I became much more aware of time management and the art of delegation.

The course will be repeated on April 30 and June 10. The fee of £175 + £26.25 VAT includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

To make sure of a place on either of these dates ring Elizabeth Moon today on 01-499 0092.

£12,000 negotiable

Our client needs an excellent and thoroughly reliable PA to work from his home helping with his property development business. You will be working entirely on your own for part of the time, so must be a self-starter and very well organised. Your responsibilities will include personal and confidential matters in addition to his business affairs. Skills 100/60. Age 35-45. Telephone: 01-499 0092

Senior Secretaries

PA IN STOCKBROKING

Are you an outgoing, career-minded PA seeking a challenge? If so, our client, a high-powered American Chief Executive of a major stockbroking firm in EC2 would like to meet you. This position requires initiative, motivation and a willingness to take responsibility. Your knowledge of the City and talent for building a rapport with clients will be invaluable. Skills of 100/60. Age 24-35. Telephone: 01-606 1611

Senior Secretaries

COLLEGE LEAVER

£7,000 - £8,000 West End
A prestigious china and glass group needs a bright, young secretary for their London sales office. Working for the Sales Manager (and assisting the Sales Director one day a week) you will enjoy a variety of contact, on the telephone and in the showroom, with international clients and visiting group executives. For such a position excellent presentation is vital, as are skills of 100/60. 40% discount. Telephone: 01-499 0092

Senior Secretaries

DIRECTORS' P.A.

Based in EC4, this position requires a tough-minded secretary who has solid experience in personnel. The successful candidate will be responsible to the managing director and will assist in creating and administering the personnel department in a young company employing circa 200 personnel. You will be aged 30-40 years, have fast shorthand and typing and some w.p. experience. In return you will be paid a handsome salary, have a bonus in December and 4 weeks' holiday per year. Telephone: 01-606 1611

Senior Secretaries

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

A rare chance exists for a young, bright and lively P.A. with the energy and motivation to move into a new and stimulating area of a firm of investment brokers. You will be thoroughly involved from the start and your poise and confidence will be fully utilised in the successful establishment of this new venture. Skills of 80/80 with w.p. experience. Age 20+. Salary c. £3,500 plus excellent benefits package. Telephone: 01-606 1611

Senior Secretaries

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c £9,000

Organise and administer the affairs of a tough young management team of 3, responsible for the Group's sponsorship and promotion activities, in the entertainment industry, nationwide. A post for a talented and organised administrator, aged 24-30, with good secretarial skills (100-60) and an extrovert personality.

PERSONNEL

c £9,500

To assist a newly appointed Personnel Manager in the restructuring and computerisation of the Company's personnel records, staff appraisals, salary reviews, bonus schemes etc. for approx. 850 staff. Previous personnel experience in these areas is essential as is the confidence to interview internal and external operatives and deputise generally in the manager's absence.

In the first instance contact Paul Saunders on one of these telephone numbers or alternatively send your C.V. to him at this address.

HUNTER TURNER
01-636 8891 / 637 3096
40 Great Portland St. London W1W 6AH

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We're one of London's leading temporary staff supply companies and we're literally got work coming out of our ears.

Our list of clients includes some of the country's leading employers, all of whom recognise the benefit of using Kingsway's top calibre temporary staff.

So for regular, well paid assignments call your nearest Kingsway office at:

Kingsway I **Kingsway II**
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WC2 415/417 Oxford Street W1
Tel: 836 9272 Tel: 629 9863

URGENTLY LOOKING TO FILL THIS WEEK:-

KINGSWAY I **KINGSWAY II**
IBM 5520 Operator, 6 weeks assignment in American Bank Wordstar Secretary with S/H to work for Mayfair Property Company.

IBM 8100, using S/H secretarial skills for a Merchant Bank in the City Wang Operators with S/H always needed for immediate work.

Zeros 860 Secretary, no S/H to start immediately, for 4 weeks. S/H Secretaries with 90wpm shorthand and accurate typing.



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Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is a leading American stockbroking and investment company based in the City. We now have a vacancy for a Stockbroker's Assistant.

Working for one stockbroker, you will start with basic secretarial duties as you learn about our business. You will be encouraged to take the New York Stock Exchange examinations and your role will develop as you do. Eventually you should be able to assist the broker in creating business.

Our clients are the most important part of our business, you should be smart and have good social and telephone skills. You should also be accurate, reliable and numerate, with good organizational abilities. No previous experience is required but you should be educated to at least A Level standard.

We are offering a competitive salary, with L1s of 75p a day, staff restaurant, free BUPA cover, 4 weeks holiday and season ticket loan.

Please write, enclosing your curriculum vitae and a short letter stating your present salary and telling us why you are interested in the post, to: Mrs. Elizabeth Ball, Personnel Department, Dean Witter Reynolds, 56 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2BL. No agencies.

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.

TRANSLATOR

English/German

Frankfurt DM Neg.

Our client, a leading German bank, requires a translator to be based in their head office in Frankfurt. As part of a team of translators, the candidate would be required to translate documents of a banking, economic or EDP nature between English and German.

Educated to degree level in either German or Economics, the ideal candidate should have English mother tongue with a perfect knowledge of German and possess relevant experience gained either as a translator or within a banking environment.

Please send a detailed Curriculum Vitae, stating salary expectations, to: Alison McGuigan, Jonathan Wren International Ltd, 170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX. Tel: (01) 623 1266.



Jonathan Wren International Ltd
Banking Consultants

MD's Secretary

Property Development N.W. London

The Managing Director of John Laing Development Limited requires an experienced Senior Secretary to become totally involved in the busy, fast moving world of property development.

Probably aged 35+, with sound secretarial skills (including shorthand and audio) and previous experience at senior level, you should be a good organiser and have the necessary confidence and maturity to cope with a challenging and demanding role. The ability to establish priorities and to work to deadlines are essential.

An attractive salary will be offered together with excellent benefits which include 5 weeks annual holiday, pension and life assurance schemes, subsidised restaurant, sports and social club facilities.

Please apply to:
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PA Sec to MD £11,000+ PA Sec Executive office to £10,500

Junior Sec 18-20 to £8,500 Exec Receptionist with typing c£8,500

All PA positions require good communication and admin skills with excellent SH/typing and some W.P. experience.

Please call or send CV to Sue Sackwill, 01 734 8466.

Stockton Associates, 29 Glasshouse Street, W1. Appointed rec cons.

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London W1 £9,000+

A leading Management Consultancy requires a Secretary/PA to look after the modest requirements of the two Partners, run a small office and be capable of working alone during frequent absence of Partners.

You will form part of a closely knit enthusiastic team, dealing with many leaders of business, industry and government, and servicing some of Europe's largest public and private organisations.

Age 28 - 45, good secretarial skills (shorthand not essential), with a sound education, ideally to degree standard. An attractive earnings package will be negotiated with a minimum base of £9,000, free lunch and superb working environment, including your own office.

Please reply to Box Number A32 with CV.

RIGHT AT THE TOP

IN ADVERTISING

£12,000

This Leading Agency requires the best PA sec that we can find for the top man. Presentation, voice, skills, and the social graces all a must for this very involving and stretching role.

Are you a polished, capable PA/sec 25+ with good audio and WP skills, then this int Executive Search Co needs you. Superb offices and excellent benefits for the person with a persuasive telephone manner and discretion who wishes to be totally utilised.

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Int house requires a Sales Services Co-ordinator 25+ for the toiletries division. Relevant retail exp and a knowledge of computers desirable together with an OND qualification. This is a superb opportunity to develop into a marketing role.

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The hard working, energetic and enigmatic M.D. of his own property company needs a P.A. He runs his friendly and expanding offices with total involvement and is looking for someone to care for him as he cares for his staff. Working from a secluded office in Kensington W8, there are general secretarial duties and a lot of 'out and about' work.

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Busy Fulham and Kensington estate agents need an untappable, outgoing secretary with Word Processor knowledge and good typing skills. Must be able to cope with a full workload and look after our clients. Salary in the region of £8,500 p.a.

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Career advancement can be rapid for the person who can build on their present experience to take on responsibilities of a more general management and business nature. This will require contact with our clients and interest in developing more general business skills, particularly in the support of marketing activities.

To carry out your responsibilities, you will need to employ excellent all round secretarial skills, including shorthand and wordprocessing. However, this will only establish your basic credentials. The right applicant will be able to demonstrate both flair and ambition for taking the initiative in handling and sorting out complex business problems as a key member of the company's management. Competence in other European languages would be an advantage but will not be the determining factor.

Applicants under 25 are unlikely to have the required experience for this position which obviously offers an excellent salary and benefits package. Please write enclosing CV with full details of experience, present salary package and availability to:

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Spring into action! Expanding young firm needs someone who can step up into new position. You'll be 100/60, numerate, with initiative and ability to cope under pressure. Beautiful new office. Promotion prospects.

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DESIGN £10,500
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SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

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We are looking for an experienced Secretary to provide secretarial support to our Concept, Development and research team. The position calls for a confident and enthusiastic person with a flair for organisation, capable of working independently in an international environment. Good communication skills are essential in a position which will be responsible for maintaining close liaison between researchers and artists and our parent company in the U.S.A.

Our pleasant, modern offices, with free car parking facilities, are situated between Bromley and Croydon (S.E.6). As well as a salary of £8,500, we offer substantial Company benefits, including free membership of BUPA, life assurance and non-contributory pension.

Please write with full details of career and qualifications to:

Mr. M. Gifford, Personnel Manager,
Franklin Mint Limited, 138 Bromley Road,
LONDON SE6 2XG.

BANKING

FRENCH

French speaking P.A./Secretary with flawless English, good English shorthand and word processing/personal computer experience, required by City merchant bank. We are looking for someone over 25, with experience at senior level, flexible, confident and willing to use their own initiative. You will be working for a French Executive Director in a busy office where some overtime (paid) should be expected. Up to £10,000 + benefits.

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German Speaking P.A./Secretary (25-35) with English and German shorthand, to assist General Manager of merchant banking arm of old established German bank. Varied duties, from organising meetings and travel, to looking after visitors, plus normal correspondence and liaison activities. The post would suit someone mature, calm and flexible with good experience at senior level. Around £13,000 + benefits.

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Bank Holiday pay, free word processor training, sick pay scheme and an excellent choice of interesting assignments.

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circa £11,400 + substantial paid overtime

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We are seeking to recruit a senior PA to work for the Managing Director of the European Tax Practice who is responsible for overall quality control of service and the direction and development of tax practices in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Based in London, you will be expected to provide an exceptional service which reflects the seniority of the Managing Director. This will involve the co-ordination of policies, procedures and information in the areas for which he has responsibilities, as well as acting as a liaison point for visiting partners from overseas. As the Managing Director travels extensively you must, in addition, ensure the smooth running of the office in his absence.

Successful candidates will be aged 25+, educated to 'A' level standard and have skills of 100wpm shorthand and 60wpm audio. Proven experience at a senior level in a large professional or commercial organisation is essential, as are your presentation and communication skills.

The position is demanding, with overtime a regular feature, but in return for your commitment we can offer you a challenging career.

If you are interested, please send a detailed C.V. (enclosing a daytime telephone number) to:

Mrs M. Hennessey,
Recruiting Officer,
Arthur Andersen & Co.,
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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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c. £20,000

Our client is the Chairman of an International group with interests in the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

He is in the process of establishing his operational base in London, where he is seeking an adaptable and enthusiastic person to deal exclusively with areas of his personal financial activities.

These are by no means confined to London and the appointee can expect a reasonable amount of travel, particularly to the South of France.

Skills in office procedures and general accountancy are required with some emphasis on audit. An accounting qualification is essential and familiarity with computer usage is desirable. Candidates are likely to be in the age range 25 to 30 years. Salary level is about £20,000.

Resumes should be sent to the consultants advising on this appointment at the address below. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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Your responsibilities will include a wide range of secretarial and administrative duties. Previous experience in an engineering environment is not necessary.

Applicants should be aged 25+ with shorthand/typing of 100/60 and word processing experience. You should have a mature and friendly personality but most important of all is a flexible attitude and sense of humour.

In addition to the above salary we can offer an attractive benefits package which includes free private medical insurance, season ticket loan scheme and 4 weeks holiday.

Find out more by telephoning Christine Colson, Personnel Officer, Stearns Catalytic International Ltd., 48 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LZ.

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(No Agencies please)

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Like a little time, a little thought, and a little trouble.

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Karin Parnaby heads our Temporary Division. She offers you not only top rates, holiday pay and incentives but also the opportunity to use your skills and expertise within your choice of environment. If you are a PA, secretary with shorthand, audio or WP skills, a receptionist/telephonist or a bright graduate clerk/administrator currently available, TALK TO CAREER DESIGN TODAY.

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Why not come and talk to us first? You've nothing to lose but your old job, and nothing to gain except an exciting new career.

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TELEPHONE: 01-489 0889

W1/SW1 SECRETARY £9,500 p.a.

International Management consultancy seeks an experienced, mature Secretary/Admin person for a very busy and interesting role. You should be a fast, accurate typist, skilled with WP equipment (we use Wang) enjoy hard work and like a tough but happy boss. You should also be skilled in the use of dictation equipment. Location: St James's Street, SW1.

Please telephone:
Martin Lawless on Tel: 01-629 8070
or send a C.V. to him at
Slide Consulting
Group (UK) Ltd,
Metro House,
58 St. James's Street,
London SW1A 1LD.

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Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Limited require a Sales Secretary with responsibility to the Sales Manager and working closely with the Sales Team.

4 weeks holiday and staff discount. Salary negotiable.
Please contact Mrs Jan Tapp on: 486 3181.

Wedgwood

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Audio secretary with good written and spoken Italian required to work for International Law Firm WC2. Legal experience preferred.

Salary £8,500.

Please telephone Carole Kettner 01-242 2919

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Requires responsible secretary. Good shorthand and typing essential. Pleasant working conditions. Salary to £10,000 depending on experience.

Telephone 01-491 7408 ext 49

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Of an expanding design company urgently requires a bright, enthusiastic PA secretary interesting and varied work, personal secretarial skills and WP essential. Car driver. Salary negotiable.

Please write with CV to:
Machin Design Ltd,
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To join the team selling houses in busy Kensington Estate Agents. Help take instructions, arrange appointments etc efficient typing & moderate shorthand.

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ESTATE AGENTS

Busy South Ken Office requires keen, young, well spoken sec with excellent office skills (no shorthand, but word processor experience). Good salary.

Call Denise Gabriel 01-370-6781.

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Senior Partner in Corporate Finance Department of Lawrence Graham seeks well presented graduate or equivalent secretary, mid 20s for interesting work with P.A. content and high level client contact. Salary negotiable.

Applications to: Michael Richardson,
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RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

required for Yves Saint Laurent Menswear UK Ltd. Must be fully experienced on Viceroy switchboard. Excellent working conditions and top salary paid for night applicant.

Please apply: Mrs E J Lewis. 01 637 9891.

TYPIST/ADMINISTRATOR

FOR EXPANDING
IBM RECRUITMENT AGENCY
You will be 20+ perhaps with 'A' levels but more importantly have good solid typing skills (minimum 50 wpm). Training will be given on WP. The ability to work as part of a team and under pressure is essential, so you can expect a salary and conditions commensurate with your 'verbal' experience.

Contact: Jane Boynton on 01-499 4566
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ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN CITY OFFICE EXCELLENT SALARY

Alexander Howden Ltd are a rapidly expanding company within the Alexander Howden Group. Due to internal reorganisation a vacancy has arisen for a Personal Assistant/Secretary to the Chairman.

You will ideally be aged 30+ and, in addition to proven experience at this level, have the desire and ambition to be a key member of a successful team. The ability to work under pressure whilst retaining a sense of humour is a pre-requisite, as is previous experience on a word processor. Cross training onto an IBM Displaywriter will be provided.

If you have excellent skills, previous city experience and are committed to being successful then please write with full career history to:-

Mrs Wendy Garrett, Alexander Howden Group,
8 Devonshire Square, LONDON EC2M 4PL.

Alexander Howden Group Ltd

SENIOR GROUP SECRETARY CITY £10,000 AGE: 22+

We are a national firm of Chartered Accountants looking for a well-spoken and well-presented Group Secretary to provide secretarial and administrative support to a team of Senior Managers in our busy Audit Department. You will have had experience working at senior level, with a good academic background and fast and accurate audio typing. You will have proven organisational skills and be able to communicate with people at all levels. Word processing training will be given. Non-smoker preferred.

We offer attractive working conditions in modern offices, 2 minutes from Liverpool Street Station. Hours 9.15 - 5.15. Benefits include 21 days holiday, 30p LVs per day, pension scheme and STP.

Applications, with full CV, to: Kim West, 346 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4PB or telephone 01-377 1000 for further details.

(No agencies)

SPRING FEVER

on
OUR TEMPORARY TEAM
£6.20p.h.

Our busy team of professional temporary secretaries are always in demand, and it has established an excellent reputation over the years.

If you are a first class, senior level secretary with speeds of 100/60, 2 years Director level experience in central London, and proficient word processing skills, we can offer you an interesting variety of temporary secretarial assignments and the best rates in London.

Our skilled temps are all paid the same rates and are frequently offered the opportunity of temping into a permanent position.

If you would like to temp at the level you deserve and be positively appreciated, please telephone for an appointment or a factsheet.

01-434 4512 (West End) 01-588 3535 (City)

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Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY/ ADMINISTRATOR

c£8,500 SW1

A small expanding firm of recruitment consultants seek to appoint an experienced and competent secretary, who will take charge of the office administration. Assisted by two staff their duties will cover a wide range of tasks including WP, basic bookkeeping and advertising. Applicants should have good secretarial skills (no sh) as well as a sense of responsibility and initiative. Apply in writing.

ANTONY DUNLOP
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TEL: 01-439 6171 01-439 6172

DRAKE PERSONNEL

HOTEL SALES AND MARKETING CLERK

This excellent and well-paying hotel sales and marketing clerk position is available in a busy hotel in central London.

The position will involve you in all areas of the hotel as well as being the Senior PA and having to supervise and handle all the other administration requirements. Your excellent shorthand and typing skills, together with at least 2 years word processing experience will equal you for this demanding position.

Our salary is £8,500 p.a. and we offer a full pension scheme.

01-734 0911

The Drake Personnel Group

Pa To MD £11,500

A top rubber PA is required to assist the MD of this large and prestigious Merchant Bank. He is young, very bright and obviously successful. This is a true PA role requiring commitment and talent. Skills: 100/60 Apr. 90-95.

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This smart, dynamic and very able venture capital company seeks an assistant. They offer the chance for REAL involvement in the 100% interesting and creative work in the City. No N/A Skills: Excellent typing Apr. 90-95.

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Admin Assistant in fast, intellectual environment. People are hardworking but very friendly and have a good team environment to support them in the West End. Skills: Excellent typing Apr. 90-95.

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HAZEL STATION

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Daville

BBC 1

- 6.00** **Cee-ee**
Breakfast Time news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55. Local news, weather and sport at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57, 8.27, 8.57, 9.00 and 9.30. Today's papers at 8.57.
- 9.30** **Relief**
The last in this Easter break series. Lennie in The Last Chance (1945) Why don't you...? Games, puzzles, 10.15 Simon and the Witch told by Nerys Hughes. 10.30 Play School presented by Ian Lauchlan with guest Chloë Ashcroft telling of the chick and the duckling. Character Mary Ann in a diabolical do not use insulin to control their illness because they fear it is passed by animals. Dr. Mohan Patel and Kira Shukla offer advice.
- 11.15** **Cee-ee**
News after Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale (subtitles).
- 12.30** **Regional news and weather.**
- 1.00** **Peabody**
Bill at One with Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, Paul Cole and Marian Evans. Budget Cookery. Opera stars Jeffrey Lawton and Helen Field talk about their highly acclaimed performances in the Welsh National Opera's new *Otello*.
- 1.45** **Berthe**
The Great Painting Job (1970) Oscar 2.30.
- 2.15** **Race**
The Golden Eagle Novices Steeplechase and 3.00 The Keith Prowse Long Distance Hurdle Race. 3.52 Regional News.
- 3.55** **Up on the Street**
Mick's uncle is trying to build the Shirey Seaweed Hypermarket (1).
- 4.10** **The Blinks**
A new cartoon about the adventures of biscuit-sized dogs.
- 4.30** **Take Two**
You should be so lucky and John Jones are the programmes under discussion this week, with Philip Schofield, who introduces two competing programmes: a review of a BBC programme or a portrait of a television personality. He also shows favourite clips.
- 4.55** **John Jones**
Newsround.
- 5.05** **The December Rose**
Fifth episode of a Leon Garfield drama. A clue to the identity of Brodsky's wife was assessed has been uncovered. 5.35 The Filthy Rich is determined to win the Lodge picnic tournament this year.
- 6.00** **Big O'Clock News**
6.35 Regional news and weather.
- 7.00** **Wogan**
- 7.40** **No Place Like Home**
The Crabtree family are in the school video (10.45).
- 8.10** **Balala**
The Oil Star. Balala looms, Sue Ellen decides she will go, and 3 A considers going solo.
- 9.00** **Party Political Broadcast**
by the Conservative Party.
- 9.05** **News with Julia**
Somerville and John Humphreys; regional news and weather.
- 9.35** **O.E.D.**
The Eleven Minute Mile. He's not the speed at which Doran Scobson runs, but the fact that he can run at all, which is staggering. Jaundice at birth severely damaged his brain, leaving him handicapped, but his mother's faith and courage have helped them both to achieve records.
- 10.05** **Spotlight**
Steve Rider from the golf course in Augusta, talks to Gerry Salesman, and Mary Kaylor returns to the ring in boxing from the Albert Hall.
- 12.10** **Weather**

TV-AM

- 6.15** **Good Morning Britain**
with Anne Diamond and Nick. Can news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Weather at 6.25, 6.55, 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Sport at 8.35 and 7.34. Cartoon at 7.24. Pop video at 7.55.
- 8.25** **Thames news headlines**
followed by Once Upon a Time. Animated series about a moment of time from today. Cro-Magnon man. How we know the Earth moves.
- 8.55** **The Lame of the Lame**
The story of a faith-healer.
- 10.10** **The Lame of the Lame**
The story of a faith-healer.
- 10.35** **Amusement Arcade**
Bella is ready to take Hollywood by storm, apart from her domestic troubles (1). Italian Legends of the Child: a young Indian Brave loses his wife tragically. 11.25 Cartoon.
- 11.30** **About Britain**
What is it about steam engines that has such passion in railway fans? This programme looks at the Sheringham to Hartlepool line on the Norfolk coast and tries to find out why steam enthusiasts spend time on steam railways.
- 12.00** **Portland Bill**
New series of adventures of a lighthouse keeper. 12.10 Our Backyard.
- 12.30** **Talking Personality**
Sir Alistair Summell talks to Lord Oselay, the racing man with Robin Houston. 1.30 The Champions.
- 2.30** **On the Market**
Magazine with guest report, recipes by Glynn Christian and food news and opinions, with Susan Brookes and Trevor Hyatt.
- 3.00** **University Challenge**
The Cambridge University of Divinity against Royal Holloway College.
- 3.25** **Thames news headlines**
followed by This Week. Jill faces an ultimatum regarding her relationship with Terry. Portland Bill repeat of the match programme. 4.10 James on the Beat in the Takeover.
- 4.30** **The megamania**
in question is a hamster. 4.20 Scooby-doo.
- 4.55** **John Jones**
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ITV/LONDON

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CHOICE

we are reminded of those forever silenced by the sales talk of the merchants of death. More vividly than any documentary I have seen for years, Munro's two films have exposed the sham in the military's boast that, thanks to the nuclear deterrent, the world has enjoyed 40 years of peace.

You cannot fail to detect the irony in the fact that *The Four Horsemen* is screened tonight immediately after *MOD* (BBC2, 8.10pm). David Taylor's series about the machinery of destruction even more than those of the armaments in David Munro's films do. No war-

CHOICE

shattered bodies in *MOD*, thought: only talk of military strategy and budgets and inter-service rivalry, and spying that operates under the supervision of defence intelligence, and - an astonishing disclosure - British attaches getting beaten up by the Russians.

WHITE SUIT BLUES (Radio 3, 7.30pm) follows the defunct Mark Twain to Heaven, surfacing in his coffin lid. Adrian Mitchell has written a lively and spectacular fantasy that may be too complex for some tastes. I was never quite sure what was Mitchell, and for that matter, whether this was Heaven or Hell. Tour de force by Harry Towb (as Mark Twain), and good songs by Mike Westbrook.

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BBC 2

- 6.55** **Open University**
Technology: Electric Money.
- 9.00** **World Bowls**
Midland Bank World Indoor Bowls Championship introduced by David Ikin.
- 9.30** **News Summary**
with subtitles and weather.
- 9.55** **Bridge Club**
Introduced by Jeremy James. Jeremy Flint guides novices and regulars to improve their skills.
- 10.00** **Film: The Racist**
(1951) starring Robert Mitchum as police Captain McGuire, on the trail of a deadly gangster, in this glossy film drawn from a 1926 Broadway play.
- 10.30** **World Bowls**
More of the indoor championship for 32 bowlers. Ron Jones and Bill Bontlinger from Canada meet the Welsh team: John Thomas and David Evans.
- 11.00** **MOD David Taylor**
spent nearly a year in the Ministry of Defence for his four part documentary, and found the overriding preoccupation was financial. Taxpayers contribute £700 per head per annum, and yet the way in which our money is used has been wrapped in secrecy. First programme, kept secret by the Conservative Party, reveals the Imperial War Museum and glass plate negatives in the National Film Archive. This is part one of a 10 series about the way film and television look at war.
- 11.30** **Channel 4 News**
Gallery Panel game chaired by George Melly. The view of the world of My Music, in which the contestants have to identify paintings from fragments and anecdotes about the painters.
- 12.00** **China: On the Capitalist Road**
There are social and economic changes in China under Deng Xiaoping, but is this merely redistribution to benefit the top fifth of wage-earners, and is the new affluence acquired at the expense of long term development? Sinologist Neville Maxwell claims: His film is followed by studio discussion with William Hinch.
- 12.30** **The Web of Art**
The Web of Art: the influence of magic in a Midsummer's Dream and other works of art up to the present. 12.10 The Enlightenment. Introductory shows that the world is portrayed by children and animals in Hogarth's work (1).
- 12.30** **Film: Three**
Star in *Planieta* (1960) (Shoot the Pianist) another film in the Truffaut series, with Charles Berling. The film is drawn into crime by his brothers. Metamorphic storyline told with brilliant cinematic flourishes and comedy.
- 12.50** **Film: Short**
by Truffaut with his autobiographical character, Antonio (played by Jean-Pierre L  aud) experiencing adolescent love (for Marie-France Pisier).
- 12.55** **Film: The Lordships**
House Glyn Mathias presents highlights from the second season.
- 12.55** **Closedown**

CHANNEL 4

- 2.15** **The Lordships**
House Glyn Mathias presents highlights from the second season.
- 2.30** **Film: Remember Last Night**
(1936) Comic thriller: a party on Long Island causes loss of memory through alcohol in one case and murder in one.
- 4.00** **A Pupa**
A film by Neil and Wendy, an entertainment with politics and health then proceed to stir it all up.
- 4.30** **Coastguard**
Richard Whitley hosts a new game between a Kent man and a Birkbehead man.
- 5.00** **Alison Armstrong**
all-com. History of a Crime. Russian animated film.
- 5.30** **Flashback**
The Bloomsbury Group: a new series of Aussie sit-com. Elderly widow and her 35 year old son in an uncomfortable proximity.
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SPORT

Souness steps up and stays down to earth

By Hugh Taylor

Graeme Souness, the Scotland captain, yesterday accepted the most coveted but most intimidating of the country's football jobs with a cool confidence which must have reassured the directors of Glasgow Rangers FC that they have ended their search for the man to make the club great again with a master stroke.

In contrast to the all too familiar "over the moon" jargon of the modern manager, Souness, in confirming that he is to be the player-manager at Ibrox, talked in the club's dignified Blue Room to a packed Press conference with the assurance of a practised lecturer.

He struck the right note at once. After a short speech from the Rangers' chief executive, David Holmes, who said they had found a manager of "poise, personality and class" he opened the door to allow Souness, in true Hollywood fashion, to burst in.

But anyone who thought the latest recruit to the new trend in football management would be dressed in extravagant, modern gear was disappointed. The imposing Souness, who has three more games to play for Sampdoria before he joins Rangers, does indeed look like an Italian film star, tanned and handsome, but he wore the sober blue blazer, grey flannels and red, white and blue club tie of Rangers to be very much a tie blue in the old Ibrox tradition.

He was at ease from the start. "What about your macho moustache?" was the first impertinent question —

highly disciplined Rangers have a rule that any facial adornments must be shaved off. "Ah," smiled Souness. "I have it protected in my contract."

While Rangers' directors are undoubtedly dazzled by the charisma of one of the world's great footballers, not all the Rangers supporters are of the opinion that Souness is the man to restore the club's fortunes. Many feel that he has no experience of management and little knowledge of the game in Scotland.

Souness deftly fielded that

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one. "I am new to management and I did expect to start the career I have always dreamed of with such a big club. I know I will make mistakes, but I don't think that they will be big ones."

He had the Rangers' supporters among the ranks in front of him purring when he said of the club: "We — a nice early touch — are second only to Manchester United and are much bigger than even Liverpool, Everton or Spurs, and it is my job to make us the greatest club in the land."

He promised the Rangers' followers that some of the biggest playing names in the game will be brought to Ibrox and was courageous enough to put his head on the block when, inevitably, the burning topic which has bedevilled Rangers for more than a

century was raised.

"Will you sign a Catholic player?" There was no humour in his reply. "How could I possibly have taken this job if I was not allowed to sign any player I wanted? How could I have gone home to my wife, Danielle, who is a Catholic, and told her I was unable to take on a good player because of his religion?"

Many felt that if Souness does bring a Catholic to Rangers that will be more important for the image of the club than winning the European Cup. Souness's honesty was appealing. "Of course I can't promise success," he said. "Of course I would like to follow in the footsteps of my friend, Kenny Dalglish, and do as well in management as he has so far, but don't forget that mine is a far more difficult job than Kenny's."

Although Souness has for years lived glamorously at the top, revelling, he said, in the sunshine and gaiety of Italy, he is looking forward to working in the less exotic setting of Glasgow. "I'm a Scot," he said. "And I will be glad to return home."

He added that there will be no flamboyance in his managerial style. "To me the great managers were all down to earth, Bill Nicholson, Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan. I hope some of their talent rubs off on me. But what I seek is the happy medium, for the most difficult part, as player-manager, will be equating being one of the boys with not being one of the boys."

CRICKET

Influence of Gower tells as Gooch heads for Antigua

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

Each morning since last Saturday Graham Gooch has been on the tennis court below my hotel room by 6.30, having a mostly base-line duel with Bob Willis, the team's assistant manager. They were there again yesterday, and unless I am much mistaken Gooch's mind was no more on his forehand drives and backhand passes than on the obsession which has been preoccupying him for most of the tour.

In persuading Gooch not to go home in a huff, David Gower is said to have played his best innings on the tour. Gooch was evidently more sympathetic to an appeal from the captain on behalf of the team than he had been to the official line from Lord's.

He came round in the end when the official statement was made to contain a request that Gooch's position should

be interpreted correctly. In other words, neither intentionally nor in any other way, was he giving best to Mr Lester Bird, Antigua's Foreign Minister.

His mission successfully completed, Donald Carr, the secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, flew back to London last night. With him was Peter Willey.

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suffering from a recurrence of an old knee injury which would have kept him out of action until the team all go home next week. Getting being available again, Willey would have been unlikely anyway to play in Friday's fifth and final Test match.

Carr had followed lunch with a game of golf with Gooch and Gatting. Everyone

is delighted by Gooch's decision, as I am sure he will be himself when he has had time to reflect on it. All that remains now is for him to come up with the best of all replies to Mr Bird — a hundred.

It has been quite a week for delicate side-issues concerning the tour, for while Mr Carr came to mediate with Gooch, Tony Brown went to Antigua yesterday, ahead of the main party and in company with Ian Botham, to umpire the first reunion between Botham and his wife, Kathy, since Sunday's "revelations" about the cricketer's private life. I am not sure what Law 42 of the Marriage Guidance Council's handbook has to say about "fair and unfair play," but Brown is a man of the world and has practice as a reconciliator after Monday's day-long meeting with Gooch.

HOCKEY

Art of one-upmanship by Potter

From Sydney Friskin, Karachi

Great Britain 2
Australia 2

Great Britain salvaged a point with a goal six minutes before the end of this match in the Champions Trophy tournament here yesterday. With one match to play against India, Britain have a chance of winning the bronze medal.

In the first eight minutes Australia forced four short corners, two of which led to

scuffles in front of goals. The Australian defence tumbled under an onslaught and the British took the lead in the twentieth minute.

Leman sent Bhaura racing down the left flank and his centre was picked up by Butcher, who scored at the second attempt. Eight minutes later Britain could have been two goals ahead, Leman following up to hit a post after Snowden had saved from Kerley.

A minute before the interval

Taylor obstructed Patch to concede a penalty stroke, which Birmingham converted to send the teams into the interval on equal terms.

Nine minutes after the resumption of play Australia took the lead, Hawgood scoring from a back-pass by Mitton; but Australia's security was always threatened and the equalizer was obtained from a scramble which followed a short corner. Potter scoring after Shaw, a substitute, had hit a post.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Unhappy birthday

Sarah Hardcastle received some unwanted news on the eve of her 17th birthday yesterday when she was forced to withdraw from the British team for the Sun Life swimming international against the Soviet Union and The Netherlands at Coventry this weekend.

The double Olympic medal winner failed a fitness test on a pulsed shoulder muscle. Gary Watson, the 17-year-old breaststroke swimmer from Glenrothes, has been denied his first Great Britain cap because of tonsillitis.

No 1 aim

Britain's Davis Cup tennis quarter-final against Australia is almost certain to be played at Wimbledon. The All-England Club's management committee meets tomorrow week to discuss the Lawn Tennis Association's request for the tie to be staged on grass, on No 1 court.



Hardcastle: injured

Cook hits six

Geoff Cook, the Northamptonshire cricketer, reported back yesterday to start his 16th season at Northampton and set a county record as captain for the sixth season in succession.

£50,000 move

Whitehaven, the Cumbrian second division Rugby League club, have made a move in the region of £50,000 for Rob Ackerman, the Welsh international Rugby Union centre.

Reardon woe

Ray Reardon's miserable snooker season suffered another setback yesterday as he was bundled out of the first round of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at County Kildare. The six-times former world champion was beaten 5-2 by the London-based Dubliner, Eugene Hughes.

Title bout

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Steffen Tangstad, of Norway, the former champion, will meet Andre van den Oetelaar, of The Netherlands, for the vacant European heavyweight boxing title in Randers, Denmark, on April 18.

Wright out

Colombo (Reuters) — John Wright, the New Zealand captain, was yesterday ruled out of this week's inaugural Australasia cricket tournament in Sharjah after fracturing his right hand while fielding against Pakistan here on Monday.

Great expectations



Bred to win: A six-day-old colt with his mother, All Along, one-time winner of the Prix Arc de L'Triomphe. The father is deceased Epsom Derby winner, Mill Reef, which makes the foal a priceless commodity. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Past masters of the tennis trade offer fresh hope to British youngsters

The wise men make their point Wimbledon tops the £2m mark

In the second of two articles, REX BELLAMY, our Tennis Correspondent, enjoys the company and the acquired wisdom of two once-great doubles champions, Ken Fletcher and Frew McMillan. Both are based in Britain and have strong views about British tennis.

Anyone who plays tennis in a cap and hits almost every shot two-fisted is almost certainly eccentric. There is much of that in Frew McMillan's nature, too. Behind that somewhat saturnine mien is one of the sharpest minds in tennis, plus a dry, quirky wit embellished by irony and paradox. One way and another, McMillan knows how to make a point. The other day he told me, in effect, that the British did not take Wimbledon seriously enough.

"On our doorstep, in our homes, we have the greatest tournament in the world," he explained, "but British players do not prepare for it well enough. For a month or more before Wimbledon, the players and management of British tennis should be directing every ounce of effort to doing as well as they possibly can. The players ought to have severe, Hopman-type training, as if for a World Cup of tennis every year. The eyes of the world are upon them. If they are going to make any kind of breakthrough it would do their confidence far more good to make it at Wimbledon. If you do that, the money comes back to you in the long run."

One British player, Sara Gomer, made a sudden leap forward in Brisbane last November under the tutelage of Ken Fletcher. "She practised hard, did things on grass that she should have been doing before, and had a couple of good wins," Fletcher says.

Sue Mappin, the women's national team manager, has engaged Fletcher to help three promising girls in their late teens. "English girls are behind the rest of the world," the genial Queenslander asserts, "because they are just finding out, now, the things they should have learned at 14 and 15 — technically, plus the court craft. Ordinary little things make all the difference but there's nobody around to tell them."

"There are kids of 16 and 17 who don't know how to win points from particular positions. In our day we knew exactly what we were going to do. We might not win the point — but we knew the play. Apart from having the talent to play it, tennis is a very psychological game. A lot of kids can knock the ball up and down the court but you need a bit more than that."

Fletcher and McMillan certainly had "a bit more than that", and each has cause to respect the other. "Ken is one of those guys who invoke a chuckle," McMillan says, "and he's somebody I will never forget — because it was against him that I won my first Wimbledon title. He was a typical Aussie, with that innate Aussie confidence — and

a great forehand, hit very hard with fairly heavy topspin." And let Fletcher remind us of prime McMillan: "His game suited doubles, because he was two-handed on both sides and could control the art of doubles, which he played to perfection. In singles he was limited because of his reach."

Both men had Bob Hewitt as a partner in Wimbledon and French finals. "He was a volatile person," Fletcher says, "flirting with understatement, but we got to the finals the only year we played. Bob was one of the best first-court players of that era."

McMillan and Hewitt were Wimbledon champions three times. "Both to play with and to watch, Bob would be close to the top of the list," McMillan says. Fletcher's tennis matured in the company of some great Australian Davis Cup players. "I was always fortunate to have a partner I felt I could win with. The second year I played at Wimbledon, John Newcombe and I got to the semi-finals. We were only kids at the time. He was just turned 17, four years younger than me. And I got to the final with Roy Emerson on two occasions; he was very good to play with because he was so athletic, so fit, so fast around the court."

Fletcher's peerless record in mixed doubles was achieved with Margaret Court, though he also partnered Maria Bueno in a Wimbledon final. ("Margaret was having a baby or something"). For years, the

Court-Fletcher team was almost invincible. "Margaret was the best lady around, along with Billie Jean King. She was a tall girl and would cover her lobs. You always knew where you stood. So we played to the golden rules, a perfect example of playing mixed as if it was men's doubles. But she used to get nervous, especially in finals. You had to keep seeing her up."

"Bueno had great touch and was a great volley player. But like Goolagong, she had a weakness on the forehand (whereas Margaret could come over it a little bit and hit it hard) and you felt that if you were going to get beaten, that forehand — besides your own faults — was the side they would exploit, which they did in the final. But it was a one-off and we nearly won. I was pleased to play with two such great players."

There is no time — more precisely, space — to stroll any further down Memory Lane in the wise and witty company of Kenneth Norman Fletcher and Frew Donald McMillan. Perhaps we can get back to them (and to Fletcher's "golden rules") later. All that strictly matters for the moment is that these former champions are based in England and are ready to advance the tennis education of the young. If only British tennis was as rich in gifted athletes and racket-handlers as it is in present and potential coaches.

London stage for Seko return

By Pat Batchelor, Athletics Correspondent

Toshihiko Seko, one of the great Japanese marathoners of recent years, is to run the London event on April 20, his first marathon since his disappointment of finishing fourteenth at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984.

Under the tutelage of Dr Kiyoshi Nakamura, who acted as a Zen master to him as much as a coach, Seko won the Fukuoka Marathon three times in succession, from 1978 to 1980, on the last occasion running the second half of the race in 63min 30sec, still the fastest "negative split" (in which an athlete runs the second half of a race faster than the first).

Seko won the Boston Marathon in 2hr 9min 26sec. Then in early 1983, in Tokyo, the Japanese ran his fastest marathon time of 2:08.38, then the fifth fastest in the world. Two months later, in Christchurch, he set world track records for the 25km and 30km, but chose to miss the first world championship marathon in Helsinki later that year, as did his compatriots, the Soh twins, in order to prepare for the Olympics.

But going into the Olympic race with five successive victories, Seko managed only fourteenth. There was already an incipient split with Dr Nakamura over whether Seko should get married before or after Los Angeles. Doctor Nakamura died while swimming last year; many felt it may have been suicide.

Seko's principal adversaries in London will include Christopher Flerie, of West Germany, Pat Peterson, of the United States, and three former winners, Inge Simonsen, of Norway (1981), Hugh Jones (1982) and Mike Grattos (1983). Charlie Spedding and Steve Jones, winners in 1984 and 1985, have been pre-selected for the English Commonwealth Games team for Edinburgh and the British European championship team for Stuttgart respectively.

Grote Walitz, of Norway, will be the favourite for the women's race, although the form of Veronique Beaudet, the French woman who became a British citizen two years ago and the holder of the national best of 2:28.04, suggests that she could get as close as any British marathon runner to Mrs Walitz.

YACHTING

Cape Town excluded

When the 13-strong Whitbread Round the World race fleet set out from Punta del Este in Uruguay this afternoon on the final 6,281-mile final stage back to Portsmouth, the 13 crews and their sponsors leave Rear Admiral Charles Williams, the race chairman, with a painful decision to make on the next race in 1989 (Barry Pickthall writes).

Two weeks ago, the South African-born admiral defiantly announced that Cape Town, the traditional first port of call, would be among the stopover ports next time, despite the political uncertainty in the region.

TABLE TENNIS

Return to top flight

England healed a wound when they beat Denmark 5-0 in the European championships in Prague yesterday (A Special Correspondent writes). The victory ensured they regained at the first attempt the top-category status they lost for the first time in Moscow two years ago.

Desmond Douglas, the national champion, and Alan Cooke, the No 3, both won twice and Carl Prean once against the Danes Douglas and Prean were subsequently rested from the match against Belgium which decided, for those who were interested, top place in the category.

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